



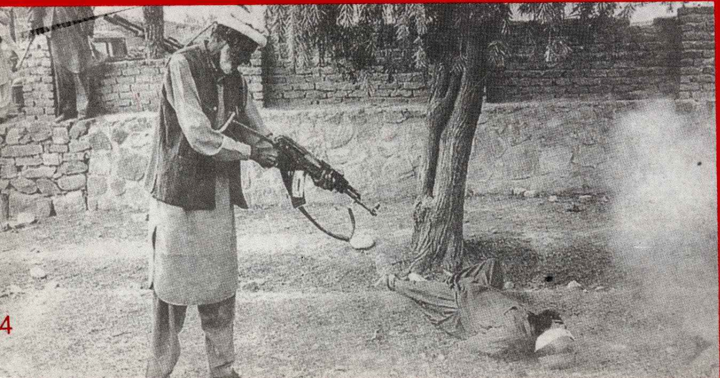
The Burst of the 'Islamic Government' Bubble in Afghanistan

A publication of the Revolutionary Association of the Women of Afghanistan (RAWA)
No. 2, January 1997

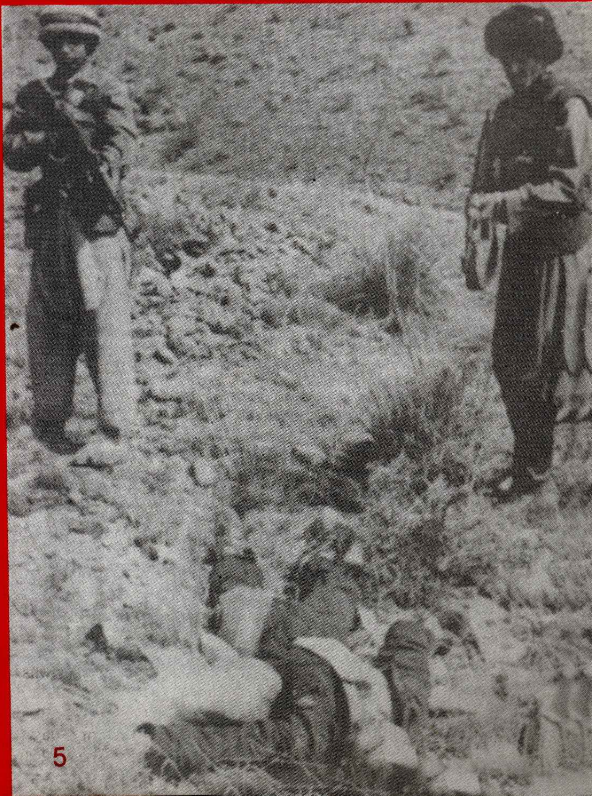
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Women wailing with grief as they are turned away from a funeral of their relatives killed during the rocketing of Kabul by the fundamentalist criminals. *AI photo*

Atrocities and heinous crimes of the fundamentalists in Afghanistan: A challenge to world conscience.

COVER:

1- Homeless women are begging food outside a mosque in Kabul.
2- People are looking for the dead bodies of their relatives among the debris of their destroyed houses in Kabul.
3- The hangmen of Iran-backed *Hezb-e-Wahdat* after torturing, shot and threw away those who were not from Hazara nationality. *Payam-e-Zan* photo
4- Father of a Pakistani youth who was murdered by an Afghan shoots the 'convict' Mohammadullah at Khost, Afghanistan.
5- Two armed *jehadis* executing an innocent man.

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In this issue:

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Or send a check/money order payable to Mrs. Sohaila Farhad to our postal address.

Glossary

Afghani: Afghanistan's currency: (30,000 Afghanis = $1 US)

Eid: An annual Islamic festival

Hajj: A Muslim pilgrimage to *Mecca*.

Hejab or ***purdah***: Islamic veil

Hezb-e Islami (Hekmatyar): Party of Islam, led by Gulbuddin Hekmatyar

Hezb-e Islami (Khalis): Party of Islam, led by Yunus Khalis, a splinter group from *Hezb-e Islami* (Hekmatyar)

Hezb-e Wahdat Islami: Party of Islamic Unity, led by Karim Khalili, supported by Iran.

ISI: Inter Services Intelligence, Pakistan

Ittehad-e Islami: Islamic Alliance, led by Abdul Rasool Sayyaf.

Jamaat-e Islami: Society of Islam, a Pakistani party led by Qazi Hussain Ahmad.

Jamiat-e Islami: Society of Islam, led by Burhanuddin Rabbani.

Jehadi: Attributed to ***Jehad*** - Islamic holy war. After the domination of the fundamentalist forces (April 28,1992), people call *jehadi* a person, party or force etc. that commit heinous crimes and brutalities including gang-raping, destruction, killing, looting etc. in the name of Islam. It is also used to differentiate them from the Taliban fundamentalists.

KHAD: Khademat-e-Ittela'at Dowlati (State Information Services) dreaded secret police of the Russian puppet regimes.

Khalq and ***Parcham*** (people and flag): Fractions of a pro-Soviet party (People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan) installed by a bloody coup in 27 April, 1978 until it was overthrown in 28 April 1992.

Maulavi: A title for a religious Muslim teacher

Mujahideen: Soldiers of Islam

Qazi: Islamic judge

Ramadan: The ninth month of the Muslims year, throughout which a strict fast is observed during the hours of daylight.

Shariat or ***Sharia***: Islamic law

Shura-e Nezar (Supervisory Council) led by Ahmad Shah Masoud.

Shura: Council

Taliban: Religious students, an Afghan fundamentalist force supported by Pakistan and America.

Afghanistan

Population: 21,251,821 (More than 3 million have become refugees since 1979)

Pop. density: 84 per sq.mi.

Urban: 18%

Main ethnic groups: Pashtun, Tajik, Uzbak, Hazara

Principal languages: Pashtu, Dari-Persian

Religions: Sunni Muslim, Shia's Muslim

Area: 251,825 sq. mi.

Location: In SW Asia, NW of Indian subcontinent.

Capital: Kabul (1996 est.): 1,200,000 - 1,500,000

Towns: Kandahar, Herat, Jalalabad, Mazar-e-Sharif

Neighbors: Pakistan on E,S, Iran on W, Turkmenistan, Tajikistan, Uzbakistan on N, the NE tip touches China

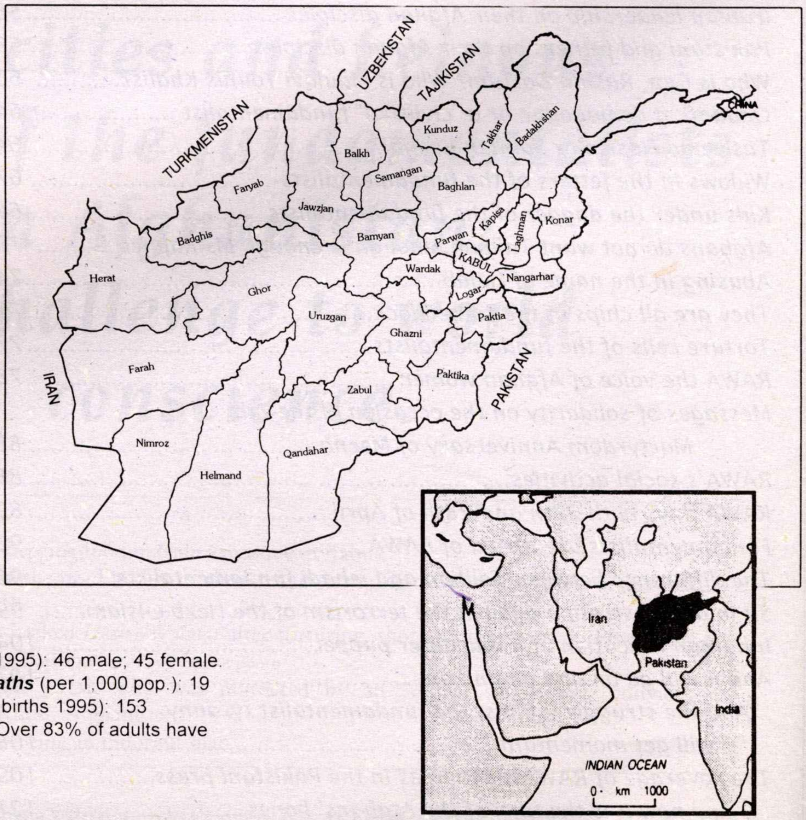
Monetary unit: Afghani (30,000 Afghanis = $1US)

Gross domestic product (1989): $3 bln.

Per capita GDP: $200

Health: ***Life expectancy at birth*** (1995): 46 male; 45 female.
Births (per 1,000 pop.): 43. ***Deaths*** (per 1,000 pop.): 19
Infant mortality (per 1,000 live births 1995): 153

Education: ***Literacy*** (1990): 29%. Over 83% of adults have no formal schooling.



Main source:
The World Almanac and Book of Facts 1996

RAWA from the eye of Amnesty International

The Revolutionary Association of the Women of Afghanistan (RAWA) has been active for over a decade. It is a left-of-center group which does not advocate violence. RAWA campaigns for women's rights and provides education and health facilities for women and children. It has set up a number of educational and health programs in Afghanistan but has had to scale down these operations because of the threats it receives. Most of its operations are based in Afghan refugee areas in Pakistan. These include several well-organized schools in Peshawar and Quetta and a health center in Quetta. Even in Pakistan RAWA's leaders continue to receive death threats from Mujahideen groups, and several have had go into hiding in fear of their lives.

Meena Keshwar Kamal, a health worker and founding member of RAWA, was assassinated along with two members of her family in February 1987 in her house in Quetta. The circumstances of the killing and testimonies received by Amnesty International from independent sources and witnesses strongly indicate that the assassins may have been closely linked to *Hezb-e Islami*. Prior to her assassination, Meena Keshwar Kamal had received repeated death threats for her "anti-*jehadi* [holy war]" activities. These reportedly related to her trips to Western Europe where she made public statements about the situation of Afghan women both in Afghanistan and in refugee camps controlled by Afghan Mujahideen groups in Pakistan. Although she informed the Pakistani authorities of the threats, she reportedly received no protection from the police.

When the bodies of Meena Keshwar Kamal and her two relatives were found, a number of Pakistani daily newspapers closely associated with the government portrayed the victims as agents of the then Afghan secret police. RAWA members denied the allegations and urged the police to investigate the killings and bring those responsible to justice. The Pakistani police, however, reportedly took no effective action. RAWA leaders, fearing assassination by Islamist groups or politically motivated arrest by the Pakistani police, went into hiding.

In February 1989 RAWA members reportedly planned a demonstration to protest against the failure of the Pakistani police to provide adequate protection to RAWA leaders, to highlight the problems faced by Afghan women opposed to both the Kabul government and the Mujahideen groups, and to press the Pakistani authorities to bring to justice those responsible for the killing of Meena Keshwar Kamal and her family members. Prior to the demonstration, however, the police raided the houses of some RAWA leaders in Quetta, reportedly at the instigation of *Hezb-e Islami* and other Mujahideen groups. The demonstration was reportedly canceled.



Meena founding member of the Revolutionary Association of the Women of Afghanistan. She was assassinated in her house in Quetta in February 1987, reportedly by members of Hezb-e-Islami *(Hekmatyar)*

A RAWA activist described to Amnesty International in late 1994 the problems her organization had been facing:

"We are working for Afghan women's welfare in Pakistan. We are being threatened. We receive written threats. We are not allowed to provide the much needed education for Afghan women. We cannot even raise the women's understanding of their own rights. There are Islamic Youth groups affiliated to Gulbuddin Hekmatyar's party [*Hezb-e Islami*]. He has warned women not to go to public places and to wear Islamic clothing. The Islamic Youth members question Afghan young women in the streets about the reason why they are out of their homes. There are clinics in Islamabad, for instance, providing free medical treatment of Afghan women. The group stops women from going there, objecting to Afghan women being treated by a male doctor. We cannot distribute our publications or educational cassettes. Any shops selling these can have serious problems. The Islamic Youth members take away these and create serious problems for the shop-keeper selling them. Some have been threatened that if they sell any more of our publications, they will be killed. The Pakistani police are reluctant to act against these atrocities."

Women in Afghanistan,
*A human rights catastrophe (**AI**, May 1995)*

Our standpoints

On women rights

As Afghanistan finds itself strangled in the grip of religious fundamentalism of all shades, human rights of the entire nation are being grossly violated. In fact, the present conditions are even worse than those during the Soviet occupation period. The nature and range of crimes perpetrated against Afghan women by fundamentalists gave no precedence in modern history. Afghan fundamentalists treat women as degraded souls whose only function is to satiate men's lust and reproduce!

Had we been facing some civilized opponents, we might have convinced them of our rights by logic and words of reason. But as fundamentalists go on rampage in Afghanistan, RAWA holds that our women will never be able to achieve their rights through the 'kindness' of the fundamentalists. To attain a meaningful emancipation, our women must continue their hard, long struggle against fanaticism and carry it to the end. We are at the opinion that any collaboration with the fundamentalists will only lead further ravaging of the Afghans by these bandits.

On the UN role

RAWA understands that the United Nations has not been able to address the problem properly. If the UN can send a large number of peace-keeping force to places like Cambodia and Bosnia, why should it not be adopting the same policy in Afghanistan? It is all the more important to have large peace-keeping forces in Afghanistan where most fundamentalist groups owe their power to the support of some foreign countries. It is very unfortunate that the UN activities are limited only to dealing with fundamentalists and it is very apparent that the UN is not willing to take any step that is likely to annoy them.

We advocate that the UN must view Afghanistan as the homeland of the Afghan people, and not as the property of a few armed militia. It should take into account the will of the people of Afghanistan and must not proceed according to the whims of the fundamentalists.

On Zahir Shah

As a matter of principle, RAWA is not monarchist organization nor does it support this institution, a majority of our people whole-heatedly support the former king. That is why RAWA prefer Zahir Shah to all the other self-styled *jehadi* leaders.

On the settlement of Afghan crisis

RAWA sees the presence and activities of armed fundamentalist parties as the root cause of the current disaster in Afghanistan. Therefore we believe that the only way to restore some stability and find a solution to the Afghan crisis is to fully disarm all the armed bands and their accomplices. This may be done by a peace-keeping force not including any troops from the countries which have been involved in the Afghan in-fighting and support any of the bandit groups.

The same peace-keeping force should supervise the convening of *Loya Jirga* (Grand Assembly), formation of a government based on democratic values and comprising neutral personalities. This government should be assigned the task of holding free and fair election within a period not exceeding one year. It is only on the completion of this task and establishment of a national security force free from the clutches of fundamentalists that the job of peace-keeping would be over.

The government we want

Our concept of a government in Afghanistan is very simple: it should be based on democratic values and it should ensure freedom of thought, religion and expression and safeguard women rights.

It is an obvious fact that the fundamentalists of all kinds use the name of Islam to justify and legitimize their violent madness. Therefore RAWA stands for separation of religion and political process in Afghanistan. Though the fanatic groups label secularism as a 'communistic' idea and 'faith of the infidels', RAWA firmly believes that only a government with secular orientation can thwart the nefarious designs of these reactionaries from the Dark Ages. It is only through a secular government that the religion of Islam can be prevented from being used as a retrogressive tool in the hands of fanatics. The people of Afghanistan are Muslims for the past many centuries and they would not let gangs of rapists, murderers and traitors to teach them their faith with a stick once again.

Islamic hejab

Besides being mentioned in the Holy Quran, veil is also a part of our culture as it is indeed in Russia and other non-Muslim countries of this region. However, it is the inability of the fundamentalists to understand and improve the economic conditions of the masses which makes them engage themselves in a shameless, cruel and inhuman drive to impose *hejab*. This is an attempt on the part of the fundamentalists to suppress our women and deprive them of their basic rights.

We hold that nobody has the right to instruct Afghan men to grow beard or force the Afghan women to wear *hejab*. As a token of defiance, and without assigning any priority to it, we will resist wearing veil in the manner the fanatics want us to.

The blow that the Soviets and their puppets failed to deal on the Afghan people, is being stricken on them by the savage and soul-destroying fundamentalists of *jehadi* and Taliban brands.

Any one who prefers this fundamentalist group to that one is not regarded as friend of Afghans.

Reports from the fundamentalism-stricken land

All reports are from "Payam-e-Zan" reporters, unless otherwise mentioned.

Two mass graves

On April first 1995 when Kartaseh, Kartechar, Kabul University, Teachers Training Center, Abniceena Hospital in Kabul fall to the hands of "government", two mass graves out of tens were discovered in the campus of Medical Faculty. Many people of Kabul visited these graves. In the first grave, bodies of countless men and women were placed. They were taken into captivity by *Hezb-e-Wahdat* and buried alive. It was a horrible scene, the headless and folded bodies of men and women were reminding certain memories of Hitler's era.

In the second grave there was a box, two meters long one meter wide and 80 centimeters high in which 8 bodies were placed. There heads and feet were chopped. On 2nd April when Rabbani was reopening Kabul University, he not only didn't visit the mass graves, but a day after the reopening the university he ordered to carry the bodies to the unknown place just to avoid further stigma of illegitimacy of his fundamentalist brothers. People were making comments that "government" is doing so to conceal it's own crimes.



Payam-e-Zan photo

The dead body of a boy who was killed after cruel torture by Hezb-e-Wahdat within the campus of Kabul University

REPORTS FROM THE FUNDAMENTALISM-STRICKEN LAND

Women's self-immolation under the Taliban's domination

Forced marriages always create a lot of untold problems for the families and particularly for those girls who do not have the right to choose their husband. Khadija d/o M.Auob resident of Darabad village, Farah province, in her very childhood had been given to Mirwais of the same village by her father. After marriage, irreconcilable differences appeared among them. Mirwais, being a drunk and adulterer, always put his wife under physical and mental torture. A month ago he forcibly took all the jewellery of Khadija and lost it in gambling. Against all these pressures and brutal oppression, Khadija, who couldn't find any authority to seek justice under the Taliban's domination, burnt herself to death by spraying kerosene on her body.

The second incident also took place in the same village about three months ago. Sher Ahmad resident of Darabad village had her under-aged daughter Zhara married to a resident of Dozak village of Farah province and in return tied the nuptial knot of the said boy's sister to his son. As Zhara, from the very beginning, not willing to enter that forced marriage, returned to her father's home but, of course, by threatening and beating her up, she had been sent to her husband's home. She then poured a gallon full of petrol on her body and put herself on fire. On her way to hospital in Zabul, Iran, she succumbed to injuries.

Nurses under the Taliban rule

Amnesty International was informed by a visitor to Kabul of the plight of two Afghan nurses who were assaulted by the Taliban and beaten. The nurses had been told by Taliban officials that they should continue working at the{name withheld} hospital while others had been sent home. On 30 October, the Taliban official in charge of the security of the area - reportedly a 17-year-old youth - came to the hospital. The nurses were not wearing *burqas* as they considered it was not a practical dress for a nurse in a hospital, but they were fully covered with scarves and long coats. The Talib got very angry. He grabbed the women by their hands dragged them to the tree nearby, broke a tree branch and began to hit them. One of the women tried to run away. The Talib forced her onto the floor and held her in between his feet while beating her with the stick.

AI, November.18,1996

"Only Afghan fundamentalists can commit such heinous crimes"

On Nov.25,1995 a group of armed *jehadis* broke into a house at 4th floor of flat No.38 in old Mycroroyn, choked to death a pregnant lady and three children, then looted their house. It's worth mentioning that flat No.38 was located opposite to *Jehadi* armed unit No.308. People of the region fully condemned coward act of *jehadis*. They were shouting that "only Afghan fundamentalists can commit such heinous crimes".

Children selling for food

Wednesday, April 17,1996: A man wanted to sell his three children (two boys and one girl) on Puli Baghumoomee in central Kabul. The children were asking their father not to sell them. But their father with tears in his eyes was asking the people to buy the children for Afs. 300,000 each.

***

On April 11,1996 a man had put her 6-year old daughter on sale in Jalalabad. He, with tearful eyes, was shouting "I can't feed my family, so I have to sell my daughter." Shopkeepers of Jalalabad collected Afs. 1,800,000 for him and asked him not sell his daughter.

Dostum commander's crime

On November 1995 a young lady-teacher of Khadija school in Jozjan province was stalked by a commander of Dostum's militia while on her way home. The commander and his armed men stopped the young lady-teacher and ordered her to get into the jeep. The woman, who knew what was wanted of her, spat in

REPORTS FROM THE FUNDAMENTALISM-STRICKEN LAND

their faces and let them know what she thought of them. The arrogant commander immediately drew out his pistol and fired at the woman, killing her on the spot. That was not all. They broke into her home that same night and took all the family members away so that no one would be left to bring up charges or spread allegations against them. To date no further information or clue regarding the fate of the miserable family has become available.

The only way

In November 1995, an old man r/o Phase one of Khairkhana, Kabul, invited his neighbors to his house and said "I am old, I can't find a job to my ability. I sold every thing I had to survive. Now nothing is left to sell and I can't go out of Kabul too. I want you to marry my three daughters and I would like to give my two sons to any one who wants them only for survival from cold and hunger."

When the neighbors heard the sad story of the old man, they collected a little money for him to deal with his urgent needs.

This is not a unique story. Thousands of fathers who are at their wits' end in famine stricken Kabul are passing a miserable life.

"Women in their houses or in the grave"

On Jan. 22,1996 a lady was hit by Taliban vehicle. People went to governor of Herat for investigation. The governor said that "we keep telling you that women don't have the right to go outside their houses. If she was a man we could investigate the case. It is a good lesson to other women not to go outside of their houses. "***WOMEN IN THEIR HOUSES OR IN THE GRAVE***".

Taliban style cruelty

On 17 August 1995 Abdullah a resident of Balahesar of Ghazni province arranged a party to celebrate his marriage and people were listening to music. Meanwhile a group of Taliban broke into the house and started beating bride and groom because they, according to them, by listening to music acted against Islam. Then they mounted the ill-fated bride and



Payam-e-Zan photo

A bereaved man who lost all his relatives and property to inter-fundamentalist dog-fighting, is reduced to begging to save his three children from the harsh winter and death by starvation, Kabul.

Taliban warn women not to visit foreign offices

KABUL: Afghan women were warned Sunday by the Taliban religious movement that they were forbidden to enter foreign agency offices in Kabul.

"All Muslim sisters are asked not to enter and work in foreign institutions," declared the Taliban's official Radio.

"If they are caught they will be severely punished," it added.

The Taliban, who captured Kabul Sep.27, soon after banned Afghan women from working in the offices of any foreign agency, which is addition to a multitude of NGOs included the UN and the Red Cross.

"Foreign institutions in the county are asked to observe the principles of Shariat and not to employ (Afghan) women," the radio announcement reminded the expatriate community.

Radio Shariat has also issued a ban on the use of recycled paper for making packets for wrapping fruits, sweets and cakes sold in the bazaar, as in some cases the paper wrappings contain verses form the Holy Quran. - AFP

The News, December 9,1996

REPORTS FROM THE FUNDAMENTALISM-STRICKEN LAND

groom on a donkey and rode them in nearby areas asking the people to watch them and take a lesson. With this cruel act, Taliban changed a marriage day to an awful mourning.

Bodies in a well

On July 1995 four bodies were discovered in the vicinity of *Watan* Orphanage, in front of old Russian Embassy in Kabul by the local people. The bodies were out of recognition. They were killed at the time of *Hezb-e-Wahdat's* (Mazari group) rule.

Adultery in the vicinity of Kaaba

Esmatullah, one of Haji Zaman's commanders takes her children's young lady-teacher to *Hajj* (pilgrimage). On the way, they stay in one room. When other pilgrims come to know that the girl is not related to the commander and he has just taken her for pleasure, they protest that commander Esmatullah has committed adultery and must be punished according to the Islamic law. But Haji Zaman and other *Jehadis* drop the case and keep silent, because they know that they will be involved too.

Prison's rent

When Taliban put someone in jail, they ask "do you eat from your own expenses or from government's?" Those who eat from their own expenses are charged Afs. 3000 for each 24 hours and those who eat from the "government", are charged Afs. 6000. If some one was not able to pay the fee he has to fight for Taliban.

Looting ancient relics

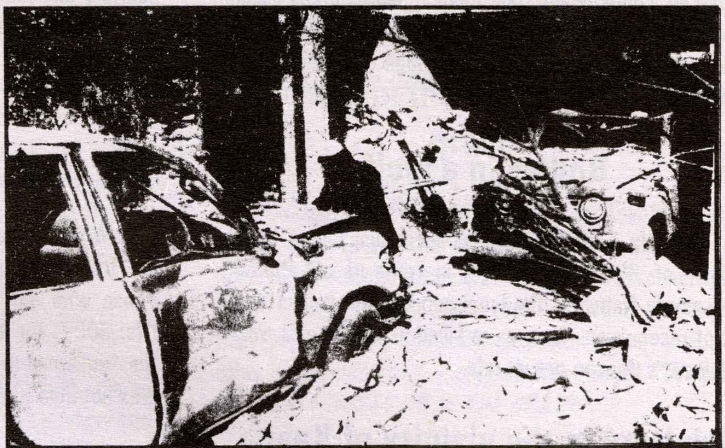
Meerzaka is a village located in Sayedkaram district of Paktia province, 30 km north east of Gardez. In the year 1947 about 50,000 pieces of coin were found and brought to Kabul museum. These coins were made of silver and copper in 300 different shapes. Some of them



The body of a bicyclist in Kabul who was killed by a long-range rocket fired by Hezb-e-Islami of Hekmatyar on January 17, 1994

had the portraits of a human and the others had portraits of trees, birds, weapons, sun and stars. Archaeologists believe that these coins belong to 600 B.C.

Recently when *jehadi* forces took over Meerzaka, Raheem, a commander affiliated to *Hezb-e-Islami Hekmatyar*, told the people "if you want more butter on your bread, start digging in Meerzaka. I will support you and will arrange your sale." So the people started digging untechnically and destroyed many ancient relics. Finally they found a big treasure of ancient relics in which many golden snake statues and bowls were included. These relics were sold to Pakistani and other foreigners for a throw away price. Now if some one wants to take a look to relics, they have to pay Rs. 3,000.



Kabul: An Afghan employee of the WHO office in Kabul examines the wreck of a vehicle destroyed in the bombing raid by anti-Taliban jets Monday, in which five civilians were killed and 15 others wounded. September 27, 1996, AFP photo

A mosque, or a check post?

On May 1996 a merchant named Dr.Mohammad Anwar who had once paid custom duties in Herat to Taliban 'Islamic Emirate', then to Ustad Rabbani's 'Government' and then gave bribe Afs. 20,000,000 to Haji Qudeer's looters, was proceeding towards Turkham (a check post on Pak-Afghan border). Near Tourkham he was stopped by Farooq and Daadook, commanders of *Mahaz-e-Mili Islami* of Pie Syed Ahmad Gillani. First they inspected his goods on charges of having arms, then they asked for permit which was provided to them. After all these incidents the merchant happily gave them a little money. The armed men returned the money back and said "what do you think we are collecting charity to build a mosque, this is a check post and you have to pay Afs. 300,000". Poor Anwar was emphasizing that he had paid all custom duties. When the armed men realized that he is not ready to pay, they started beating him. Anwar succeeded to escape leaving behind his shoes, turban and all his goods.

Holier-than-thou

On April 24, 1996 Taliban cut hands and feet of three person in center of Farah. This brutal punishment was carried out in the premises of the Abunaser Lycee (high school).

These three people are from Pushto village of Bakwa district. Their names are Sultan, Khangul and Luqman. They were allegedly involved in robbery. Taliban called Dr. Shaikh Ahmad surgeon, to cut the right hand and left foot of each. But the doctor refused to do so. Taliban warned the doctor that they will do it themselves and if they die of bleeding they will kill the doctor too. For the doctor no other option was left. Taliban collected the people by force to watch amputation. After cutting their feet and hands they put the bleeding hands and feet in a wheelbarrow and passed in the streets to show the people.

The real reason for their purposeful mutilation was their not being on friendly terms with Maulavi Yehya who, as son-in-law of Maulavi Dost Mohammad, judge of

No blood suckers of history is a match for the Afghan fundamentalists!

REPORTS FROM THE FUNDAMENTALISM-STRICKEN LAND

Worsen people's pain

"There is no education and no learning here. All schools and educational centers are closed. There are no female doctors in Kankahar that I know of, so we cannot even go to doctors. I can tell you what happened to Shayesta. She is about 22 years old. She got very ill so she asked her cousin Abdulsalam to take her to a doctor. This was in Jowza 1375 {May/June 1996}. On the way to the hospital, they were stopped by armed Taliban guards several times. In the end, the guards started beating Adulsalam for taking Shayesta to the doctor. They then warned Shayesta that she would be killed if she appeared in the streets again. Shayesta's illness got even worse, and Abdulsalam's injuries forced him to stay at home for several weeks."

AI, November18,1996

the Farah court, had the might of Shariat law behind him and therefore could have the hands and feet of his adversaries amputated without the slightest compunction.

Similarly, on April 24,1995, a young widow and a young man were publicaly flogged and given a hundred lashes each. Their charges were suspicion of having commited adultery. The punishment was again carried out on the grounds of the Abunaser Lycee by the court judge in the presence of Farah citizens. These shameful activities are continuing despite the fact that the Taliban "brothers" themselves and non-Talib miscreants invariably possess two, three, four and even more wives. Some of them, like the governor of Herat, Mullah Yar Mohammad Khan, just in one week takes two wives.



A Talib militia (c) stops a taxi and a bicycle rider with a stick in his hand forcing them to go for Friday prayers in front of Pul-i-Khishti mosque in Kabul. - AFP photo

How you are still alive?

On 10th April 1996 a government employee, recently kicked out of his job, wanted to sell his five children in front of Kabul Municipality. He was shouting "It has been three days that these children have eaten nothing." Many people had gathered, some were donating money and some were crying. The man was not accepting the money, because it was only enough for three-four days. He was asking the people to take the children instead, for survival. After a while a group of armed *jehadis* came, beat the man and took him to their post. There they asked him "if you and your children haven't eaten for so long, how you are still alive??"

Eye-gouging

When Dostum's forces were defeated by Rabbani's gang and many of his men were captured, Dostum's militia, in order to show their wrath and anger, gouged out the eyes of Rahmatullah, a member of *Jamait-e-Islami,* on November 13,1995.

Is there any difference between the Afghan's blood and the others'?

The shelling of a soccer stadium in Sarajevo in June 1993, which caused the deaths of 15 people, resulted in front-page stories in the New York Times, the Washington Post, and other major metropolitan dailies as well as prominent segments on the network television news shows. A few weeks earlier, some 700 people had died during an upsurge of shelling in Kabul. That incident merited only a small story on page 19 of the New York Times and scarcely a mention anywhere else.

Diplomat, *April 1994*

REPORTS FROM THE FUNDAMENTALISM-STRICKEN LAND

The fundamentalists and the Afghan women

Nasima d/o Brigadaier Khalil resident of Darabad, Farah was living in Kabul. Recently she was engaged. On the wedding night while she was returning from a beauty parlor, she was abducted by armed *jehadis*. After several days while being dishonored she was dropped near her house. Nasima attempted suicide, but she was taken to hospital and saved. As ill-fated family couldn't stay any longer in Kabul, so they left the city.

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Farzana d/o Engineer Aqa Mohammad resident of Darabad village, Farah province, was living in Khairkhana, Kabul. Her husband was a military officer. 15 months ago while she was taking Afs. 800,000 to her parents, on her way to their house, she was abducted by *jehadis*. She was pregnant. Her relatives looked for her every where but in vain. Then they became frustrated and her husband left Kabul. Now he is in Farah and suffering from psychological problems.

***

On January 1996 Anargul a young lady who was supporting four children and her sick mother, while returning from a funeral service was kidnapped by Rabbani's armed men. After four days her dead and dishonored body was found.

On May 24,1996 a rocket hits the house of Abdul Karim the shopkeeper and kills Ajmal his three years old son and injures A.Karim. He was carried to the hospital. His wife Parigull was visiting him once in while. One day at 7:30 PM when she was returning from the hospital she and her three children were kidnapped and she herself was gang raped. After 24 hours she and her children were released in front of their door.

***

On November 29,1995 village of Shekhmatur of Charbulak district came under cross fire of two rival groups, which as a result 21 people including 9 women and 4 children died and fighters of Khanju commander captured the village. They kidnapped 2 girls one 14 and the other 17 years old. They were taken to the headquarters of Khanju. There they were gang raped and were released after 24 hours.

Mass graves

In March 1995, 22 bodies were reportedly discovered in a mass grave in Charasyab. Journalists watching troops of President Rabbani's government opening the grave reported that the bodies of the victims had been buried on top of each other in an irrigation ditch about 300 meters from the main road linking the town of Charasyab with Kabul. According to Reuter reports, the corpses were in varying stages of decay. The bodies were male, their hands were tied behind their backs and they had been shot in the head. Twenty of the victims were reportedly members of the Hazara Shi's ethnic group.

AI, November 1995

The Taliban's holy duty

The Taliban can be the envy of the bigots of the world for their zeal in performing their holy duties. In the marketplace of Shindand, Herat, they were preoccupied with the sin of having long hair. They were observed for days on end searching for young boys with longer-than-Taliban-acceptable hair in every nook and corner of Shindand bazaar. Whenever they chanced to spot any such gross offender they fell on him with gusto, cutting his hair in a very ridiculous style (as a

Women had been the first easy victims of the jehadi and Taliban traitors, it's their obligation to be the first dagger in the heart of the fundamentalists!

punishment) from the left ear to the right and from forehead to the back of the head. They called their buffoonery 'making a street'. After finishing their 'holy job' they collectively ridiculing the unfortunate boys. All barbers in town have been ordered by Taliban, on pain of the most blood-chilling punishments not to dare to shave anyone's beard off.

The gift of the fundamentalists

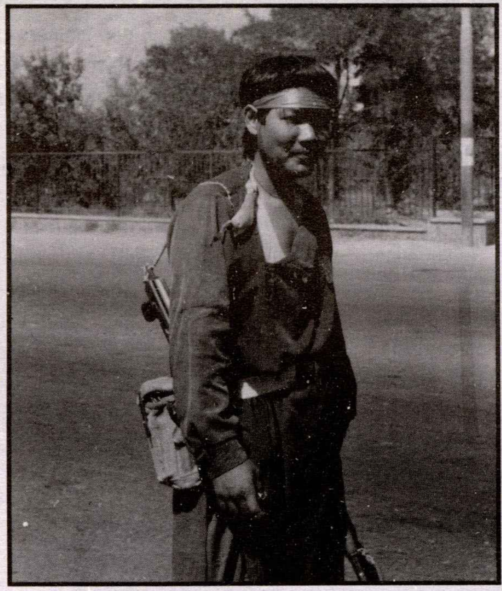
One of the consequences of fundamentalists' domination in Afghanistan has been a rapid and unprecedented increase in the number of prostitutes and beggars. Small children and women are the first and the main victims of this fundamentalist's gift. Young women who have lost their spouses or male bread-winners in this male-dominated society and who have no safe haven in a world of death, destruction, starvation and fundamentalist bigotry have no other recourse but to degrade themselves for the sake of feeding their starving children and other family members. All token humanitarian relief assistance are under the control of the 'government' authorities. Distribution of relief supplies to pauperised widows and their families provides golden opportunities for the depraved fundamentalists to take pious advantage of the destitute 'beneficiaries'. They begin with asking for bribes and then work their way to more carnal gratification, culminating in the prostitution of the miserable women.



Payam-e-Zan photo

The "Islamic Revolution" brought nothing but destitution and starvation. This unfortunate old woman has lost whatever she had, but will the fanatic Taliban allow her to feed her innocent children by begging outside home, or by banning women from work, force her to prostitution?

REPORTS FROM THE FUNDAMENTALISM-STRICKEN LAND



A fighter of the pro-Iran Hezb-e-Wahdat *impatiently waiting for a prey*

Raping nine-year old girls

In September 1995, a nine-year old girl was abducted and raped by a *Jehadi* commander in Jalmato village of Ghazni province. The family of the girl asked the *Jehadi* authorities for help. The *Jehadi Shura* (council) knew they could not afford to admit that a *Jehadi* brother had committed the heinous crime. They soon found two scapegoats and had them (innocent shepherds) hanged. When the hangmen were taking down the corpses of the two innocent shepherds, it was discovered that one of them was still alive and could be resuscitated. So they had him sent to a nearby hospital where he was dispatched with a lethal injection because there is no any right to hung a person twice.

Was there any electricity at the time of the Prophet Mohammad?

One of the *Jehadi* commanders, during a meeting while reproaching a person who complained about the lack of electricity said: "The people unjustly complain about the shortage of electricity. Was there any electricity during Mohammad's era?" The person who had complained, without any hesitation, replied: "Commander, during the Prophet's period there wasn't any Pajero, no power generators, then why everyone of you are envying with each other to possess more and more of them? Is that not right that every one of you have generator in your houses and are watching films on VCR? Is there any minister, chief and commander who have not power-generator to illuminate his home every night, no matter how the ear pricking noises of power generators disturb the neighbors?" As the person finished his talk, the commander changed the topic because he, being ignorant and ashamed, had no answer to the truth being said.

Toll of the civil war

On 15th July 1995 two women were injured by rockets launched by Taliban in Wazir Akbar Khan, Kabul. They were picked up by *Jehadis* in a car under the name of taking them to a hospital. Next day their dishonoured and naked dead bodies were found from a hill of the area.

Abdulmanan Niazi, the murderer

On Nov. 11,1995, Abdul Manan Niazi with some pick-up Toyotas full of Taliban raided Kelbarzn, a village in Herat to punish the dissidents. Niazi himself whipped a dissident *Talib* in public until he died on the spot.

Taliban style hanging

People had been ordered to congregate in the city's football stadium, then the gates were closed permitting no one to leave. The convicted prisoner was then brought in and positioned below a waiting crane. People in the audience noticed that he had already been beaten close to death. He had reportedly been made to sign a statement that he agreed with his death sentence. A rope was placed around his neck and he was hoisted up in the air. He reportedly died after some 30 minutes of strangulation.

AI, November 18,1996

REPORTS FROM THE FUNDAMENTALISM-STRICKEN LAND

Ismael Khan's killings in Farah

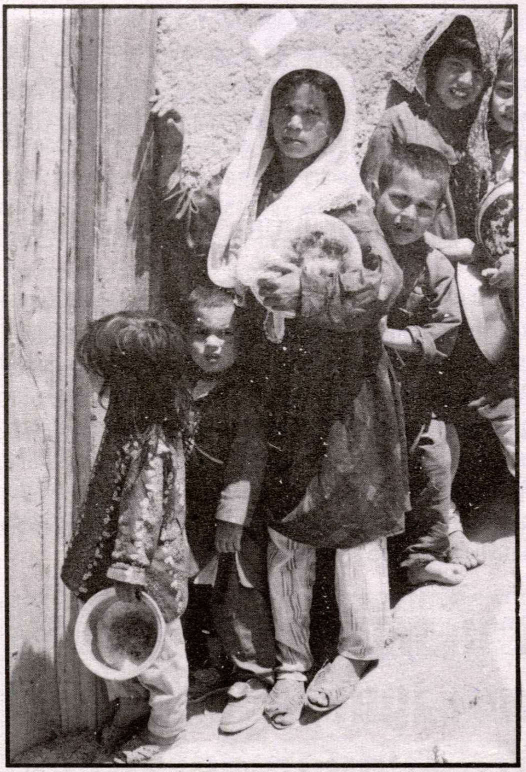
An eye-witness to a retaliatory attack in Farah province in early May 1995 by the forces of Ismael Khan told Amnesty International:

"They dropped a lot of cluster bombs, killing between 220 and 250 people. A lot of those killed were ordinary people who neither opposed nor supported any of the factions. The fighting had stopped and there was no military activity in the area for several days. But Ismael Khan's MiG-21, MiG-23, Su-17 and Su-18 were used against the residential areas. There was no military resistance. Only ordinary people were killed."

AI, November 18,1996

Hostages in barrels

On April 12,1995, a truck belonging to *Hezb-i-Wahdat* and carrying 12 sealed barrels was making its way from the Taimani area of Kabul to Dasht-i-Barchi in the west of the city. The barrels were sealed tight but each one had a hole bored on top. The truck was stopped for a routine check at a check-point. A piteous voice rose beseechingly from one of the barrels, "Water, for God's sake, water. I'm dying of thirst." This voice was followed by other voices moaningly crying for help from the other barrels. The guard who at first took fright called others for help. The driver and four other *Hezb-i-Wahdat* men took to their heels but were soon overtaken and arrested by the guards at the checkpoint. They were handed over to the so-called Security Ministry, but further details and follow-up information is not available.



Children begging food in starvation-stricken Kabul

The value of life in *Jehadis'* view

The following incident was communicated by a man to RAWA's *Payam-e-Zan* (The Message of Woman):

It was during the closing days of 1995 that I went to visit a friend of mine hospitalised in Sherpao Hospital, Peshawar. He gave me a first hand account of how he had fallen into that condition:

"Some days ago I was travelling in a truck carrying goods from Kandahar to Kabul. In the suburbs of Ghazni province I was stopped at a checkpost manned by commander Qalam of Gulbudeen Hekmatyar's *Hezb-i-Islami*. The guard told me to get out, which I obediently did. He asked for money. I told him I did not have much. I showed him what I had. He looked into my eyes and told me he would soon convince me that I could pay much more. He went into the hut used as the checkpost and came out dragging a blood-dripping headless corpse. "This one also did not have much. What was the use of him having a head on his shoulders? Come on, make a clean breast of it. Where have you hidden the money?" I was benumbed by fear. I stammered that I really didn't

REPORTS FROM THE FUNDAMENTALISM-STRICKEN LAND



A three-month-old baby girl recovers at the International Committee of Red Cross hospital in the Karte Seh area of Kabul after a shell landed in her frontyard. The shrapnel severed her right leg while she slept in her cot.

have any more money. The *Jehadi* fired without more ado and struck me in the right shoulder. Blood was running down my sleeve and darkness was spreading in front of my eyes. I knew this was only a friendly *jehadi* warning so I told him where I had put my little fortune of Afs.800,000 (then something near Rs.5,000). My life was spared and I returned to Pakistan for treatment but I am haunted by the memory of that headless corpse.

Tape recorder and amputation

A young man, Niazudeen from Zurmat district of Paktia province was listening to his tape recorder. A *Talib* objects and breaks his tape recorder. Quarrel begins between the two. People mediated and solve the problem. But after a few days later on April 21,1996 poor Niazudeen is caught on false charges of robbery and after 10 days of torture his right hand and left foot were cut in the public view.

Commander Amin, a lewd killer

During the winter of 1994, two girls were kidnapped from a wedding ceremony held in Ghazni by one of the commanders of Amin. The parents asked Amin, 'Security Chief', for help. After three days the girls were found. As the kidnappers were Amin's men, he killed both girls because it could cause a trouble for Amin himself. In a report Amin said: "the girls were prostitutes so we killed them." Other *jehadis* also satisfied with the cruel act of Amin.

Dependence on foreign powers + Reaction + Terrorism + Ignorance + Hostility towards women = Fundamentalism

REPORTS FROM THE FUNDAMENTALISM-STRICKEN LAND

Taliban's public execution

Kabul (AFP) - A man was publicly shot dead in Kabul on Wednesday in the first such execution to be carried out by the Taliban militia in the Afghan capital since they captured the city nearly three months ago.

Witnesses to the killing said the relative of the murder victims shot Rohullah from close range with an AK-47 automatic assault rifle.

Thousands of Afghans gathered on the football ground of the former German-medium Amani High School to witness the shooting which had not been announced.

After the dead body was removed, a large crowd of people gathered at the spot where the shooting took place.

No information was given about the date or nature of the murder of the family of four. The Taliban were anxious to disperse the crowd soon after execution.

Many more public executions, including stoning people to death have been reported from provinces under the religious militia's control

the ultra-conservative Taliban have strictly implemented Shariat or Islamic law in the two-thirds of Afghanistan under their control.

The Frontier Post

December 19,1996

"Islamization" courses for functionaries

One of the many strange programmes planned by the "Islamic government" in Kabul is to "re-Islamize" the people. Following the example of Iran, they are focusing on revising Islamic tenents and are teaching religious and political courses drawn by their officials. The aim of these courses is to forcibly impose fundamentalist dogmas and unscientific ideas which neither have any relevance to the life of our people nor help them in any way to solve their acute problems.

One such course begin by teaching the proper way of Wozo (ablution) is in fact an insult and contempt for the Muslim functionaries who have been saying prayers five times a day throughout their lives. To add to this insult, if anybody fails to perform his prayers precisely as designed by the fundamentalists, he has to face harsh consequences like salary deduction, show-cause letters, warnings or finally leave the job orders.

Masoud and the killing of 85 educated men of Panjsheer

During the war of resistance against the Russian invaders, eighty five intellectuals including teachers, engineers, government employees and other enlightened individuals were done away wih under various false charges in Panjsheer, the area under the command of Ahmad Shah Masoud. Masoud himself can never absolve himself from responsibility for these killings, but in order to pose as a 'democrat' he claims that he had no hand in these murders. "The assassination of intellectuals is the work of *Mullahs*", he observes.

Gift of the "Islamic Revolution": Teachers' begging

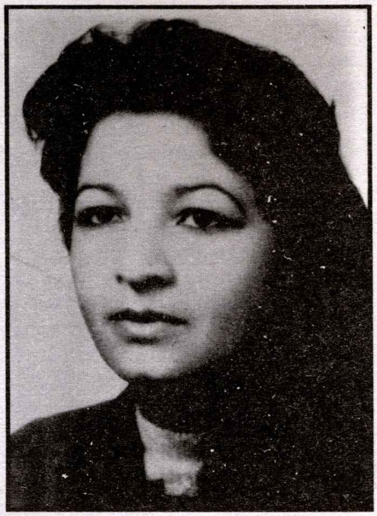
Teachers who are living in towns and villages are begging their daily bread to ward off starvation. Chaman Gul, a pauperised teacher, collects watermelon rinds and leftover pieces of bread from the house of Oramish, the kingling of the locality, Juzjan province. The watermelon rinds and the bread crumbs are collected ostensibly for the purpose of being fed to 'his sheep' while in actual fact they are the sole victuals of his destitute family.

Don't kiss your mother-in-law!

Maulavi Dost Mohammad, the erudite Head of the Sharia Jurisprudence court of Farah province publicly ruled in one of his sermons: "If a man kisses the hand of his mother-in-law in greeting and felicitation on *Eid*, it means that his wife had been divorced." Such a lewd and depraved mentality is too disgusting to merit any further comment.

REPORTS FROM THE FUNDAMENTALISM-STRICKEN LAND

The traitor *jehadi* fundamentalists after gang-raping Shukria, killed her in cold-blooded



Shukria d/o Ali Mardan was the mother of four children and lived in Kabul. She had a tailoring-shop.

On May 22, 1993 she was on her way to Shahrara when suddenly a car braked to a halt and a group of armed-*jehadi* jumped out and dragged her to their car and in a minute disappeared.

Her ill-fated family searched every where but in vain....

Till, after fifty-five days her blood-soaked semi-naked body was found in Khairkhana, Kabul.

***Payam-e-Zan*, No.35-36**

"MY MOTHER IS STILL ALIVE"

In July 1996, Turiolai, a man in his late 30s and Nurbibi, a woman in her mid-twenties were stoned to death in the City of Kandahar. The man's father had married Nurbibi around 15 years ago and Nurbibi, a young widow, reportedly developed an affair with Turiolai lasting a number of years. The Taliban reportedly got to know of the affair, saying they had hidden on a neighbour's roof and had seen the two coupling on their own roof. Based on that evidence the Taliban court sentenced the couple to death by stoning. According to local people, the Taliban had arranged for the stoning to take place on a hill outside the city. They offered free transport to people, but according to several reports, people showed no interest. They then changed the site to the city center, and this time ordered people to attend. When the time came, people did not throw stones. Taliban threw the first stones, and told ordinary people to join in, which they did. The man reportedly died after he was hit with seven stones, but the woman lasted longer. Members of the woman's family were ordered to be present, and her son was forced to go and check if the woman's still alive. They shouted at him that he should tell the truth. He cried as he told them that she was still alive. The last stone to kill her was a boulder which a Talib lifted and dropped on the woman's head.

AI,* *November 18,1996

Without struggling against fundamentalist fascism, struggle for democracy and freedom is null and void!

REPORTS FROM THE FUNDAMENTALISM-STRICKEN LAND

Fundamentalists' madness

Hundreds of unarmed civilians have been the victims of indiscriminate killings by the Taliban in the last two years. In November 1995, Amnesty International again warned the international community of its growing concern for the safety of the civilian population of Kabul after a renewed bombardment of the city in which at least 57 unarmed civilians were killed and over 150 were injured in the residential areas of the city in three days of indiscriminate rocket and artillery barrages fired from Taliban positions south of Kabul.

....

In one day alone, on 11 November 1995, at least 36 civilians were killed when over 170 rockets as well as shells hit civilians areas. A salvo crashed into Foruzga Market forcing the shoppers and traders to run for cover. Rockets struck the Taimani district where many people from other parts of Kabul have settled. Other residential areas hit by artillery and rocket attacks were the Bagh Bala district in the northwest of Kabul and Wazir Akbar Khan where much of the city's small foreign community live.

....

Scores of civilians have been killed in the fighting north of Kabul since the Taliban captured the city on 27 September 1996. For example, bombs dropped from a Taliban plane on 24 October 1996 killed at least 20 people, mostly children, in the village of Kalakan, north of Kabul. Air raids have also been carried out by the anti-Taliban alliance. In several instances bombs dropped from planes have hit civilian areas with no sign of military activities, killing several people including children.

AI, November 18,1996

Masoud's men rape foreigners

After defeating *Hezb-e-Wahdat* in west of Kabul on February 1995, 'government' troops, started looting, raping and committed many other crimes not only against the defeated groups but also against some foreigners. *Shurai Nezar* troops of Ahmad Shah Masoud after entering Karti Seh (south west of Kabul) raped, tortured and then looted the property of Alizj, Rosi, Ilee, Keren, Margret and Willy from USA, France, Belgium and Swiss. Similarly they raped the wife of Ghulam Hasan Turkmaney, who was mother of many children.

"Religious courses" and the art of fondling

Mulavi Basheer teaches in the religious beliefs courses in Ministry of Refugees' Repatriation. He usually insults women and girls of the courses. Once Tymorshah, the gate man of the Deputy Minister finds Mulavi while eloping with a girl. The Deputy Minister summons the girl and Mulavi to his office, and fires poor Tymorshah on charges of looking a naked girl.



His jehadi brothers have looted everything. Would there be anything left for him to pilfer?

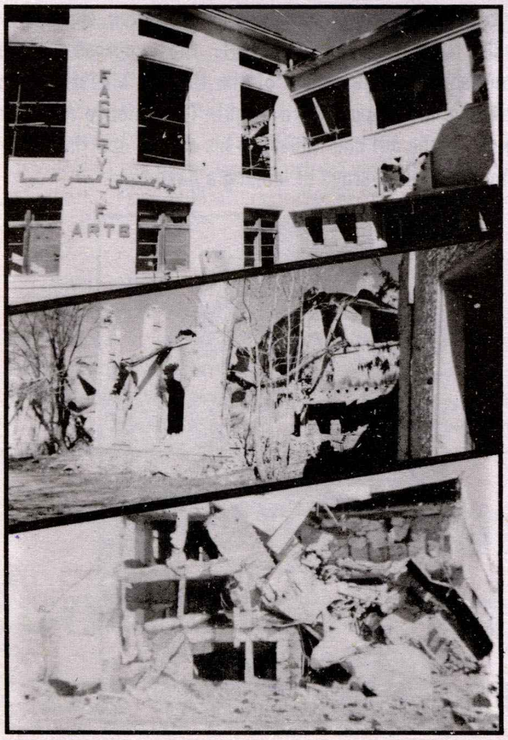
REPORTS FROM THE FUNDAMENTALISM-STRICKEN LAND

Taliban style killing

Abdul Qayum was caught by Taliban on charges of having arms. After a few days, Taliban bring his dead body to his family and said: "Abdul Qayum's time was over and due to God's well he breathed his last" But when Qayum's family was washing his body they saw signs of torture.

At the cost of our people's blood

On Feb.12,1996 a big party was arranged to celebrate circumcision of Dustum's son. Party continued for five days in which billions of Afghani were lavished. More than ten groups of musicians were performing and women were dancing. People ask where Dustum and his notorious commanders have got all this money from. They drive expensive cars and have built big and luxurious houses inside Afghanistan and abroad and waste money for their pleasure while the people are starving to death.



Payam-e-Zan photo

Kabul University, recognised as one of the best seats of learning in the region, destroyed by fundamentalist cretins.

UNHCR office in Kabul hit by $70,000 theft

Kabul (AFP) - A sum of 70,000 dollars has been stolen from the local office of the United Nations High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR), a UN official said Wednesday.

The loss is likely to hit several relief programs of the agency, which is already faces financial shortage due to decline in international donations for humanitarian work in the war-torn country, Terry Pifzner, head of the UNHCR office said. "They have stolen from one of the poorest nations of the world," Pifzner said, urging investigation and "tough action" by authorities against those responsible for crime.

***The Frontier Post**, June 20,1996*

Jehadi style assault

On Dec.26,1995 some armed *jehadis* broke into a house at flat No.4 of third Mycrorayon, cruelly kills the mother and kidnaps her young daughter. The girl is still missing.

Hezb-e-Islami takes bribe

In January 1996 Haji Amin, a goldsmith was kidnapped by *Hezb-e-Islami* of Gulbudeen for ransom. His sons paid Afs. 300,000,000 and the man was released. He said "though I was sick these criminals beat and tortured me badly".

"Down with *jehadis* and bandits"

On Jan.31,1996 Fakhrudeen was deprived of his cloth shop worth Afs.200,000,000. It's only 200m from a security post which was under the control of Quree *Mujaheed* of *Hezb-e-Islami* Gulbudeen. Shopkeepers of the area held a strike to condemn this heinous act. They were chanting slogans that "Down with *jehadis* and bandits"; but soon they were surrounded by armed men and ordered to disperse.

REPORTS FROM THE FUNDAMENTALISM-STRICKEN LAND

Taliban burn civilian houses

Civilians have had their houses deliberately destroyed in the ongoing conflict. On 22 October, an entire village was almost completely burnt out by the Taliban forces taking revenge against civilian villagers because of an earlier attack by anti-Taliban forces against Taliban positions in the nearby hills. Between 20 and 30 Taliban guards reportedly torched at least 116 homes in the hamlet of Sarcheshma north of Kabul. Masood's forces withdrew and Taliban guards entered the village. The villagers told them they had taken no part in the attack, that those who had carried out the attack were soldiers who had entered and then withdrawn from the village, but Taliban guards ignored their explanation and poured petrol on the houses and set them ablaze, burning food and all other belongings before the eyes of the villagers. Destruction of houses as reprisal or punishment is prohibited under international humanitarian law.

AI, November 18,1996

Taliban commit heinous crimes

On January 28,1996 Taliban cut hand and foot of Abdul from Adraskan, Herat. He was accused of robbery.

***

On March 27,1996 Abdullah and Abdul Mahmood residents of Uruzgan were caught by Taliban on charges of robbery. Taliban tortured them first and after cutting their hands and feet they put their wounds in boiling oil.

***

On 12 April 1996 Abdul Haq s/o M. Nabi was hung publicly in Herat.

Dostum's malitia take bribe

On Dec 24,1995 Dustum's armed men kidnapped a 16 years old boy, sexually assaulted him and asked for Afs. 3,000,000 from his father who owns Alburz Hotel. But after a few days the boy succeeded to escape.

Mass suicide

In January 1996 the whole members of a family living in Karte sulh (Peace Ave.) had committed suicide because they had nothing for their survival.

Looting under the rule of Taliban

On January 23,1996 a group of armed people entered Zulmai Market, Herat and looted several shops.

***

On January 25,1996 a group of armed people looted 11 Tone of pistachio belonging to Sufi Gulzar resident of Khwaja Kala located in west of Herat city.

***

On January 28,1996 a group of armed people enterred Khurasan money exchange market, Herat and deprived people from lots of foreign currency.

Daily work of the fundamentalist commanders

On April 14,1996 Hazrat who is known Gurgury commander resident of Kala Balkh District, attacks Arnagha village. People of the village evacuate women and young boys and girls. A lady who was going out of the village had a baby in her arms. The baby started crying and the poor lady, to save other members of the family had no other option but to leave her baby in the bushes. The other day the baby was missing.

Taliban prison threat to non-fasters

Kabul (AFP) - Muslim Afghans who fail to observe a fast during the Holy month of Ramazan will be jailed for 60 days, an official of the Taliban militia's religious police said here Thursday.

Mawlawi Enayatullah Baleegh, the deputy head of the department, warned that "under Shariat" people who did not observe Ramazan would be severely punished.

Violators of the rules of Ramazan will be subject to two months behind bars during which they will be forced to fast during the day, Baleegh told AFP.

***The Frontier Post**, January 7,1997*

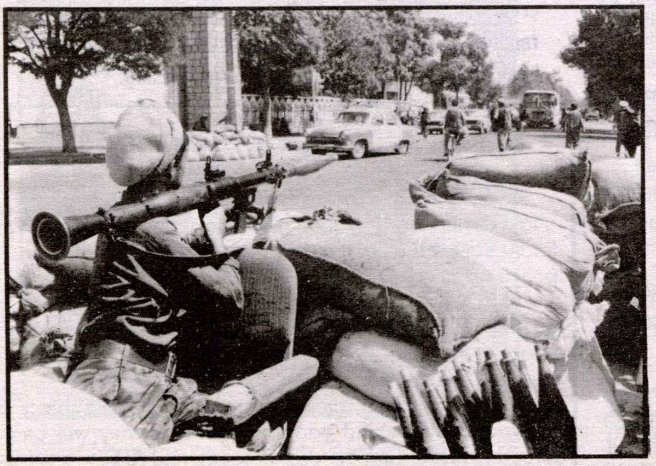
The infamous "champions of Islam" who speak only in the language of guns,

in action



Payam-e-Zan photo

The vandalist jehadis piled books in order to set them ablaze. By burning books and destroying our cultural and material values, the ignorant jehadis and Taliban proved themselves as the most corrupt, obscurantist and medieval-minded elements in the whole history of human-being.



A jehadi in action in one of the residential areas of Kabul



The damaged pediatric ward of Kabul's Maiwand Hospital shortly after it was hit by rocket fired by Taliban



Payam-e-Zan photo

Bodies of four innocent civilians of Kabul in the morgue of Jamhuriat Hospital, killed in house-to-house fighting between Jehadi bandits.

Traitors have not the right of trial

Villainous guardians of "Islamic morality" blacken the faces of accused perpetrators of common felonies. Fundamentalist ignoramuses lack the mental faculties to understand that gambling, theft, prostitution, etc. are deep-rooted social problems and no "Islamic regime" can get rid of them by face-blackening, amputation, stoning and other such inhuman and degrading punishments.

Those most worthy of having their faces blackened are those who deprive women of their basic human rights, close schools and declare war on TV sets, cassettes, tape recorders and any and all vestiges of modern-day life and human progress.

Four unfortunate men being paraded through Kabul streets on the back of a truck for some petty accusation. The mortified people of Afghanistan are longingly looking forward to the day when the black faced Taliban leaders would be paraded throughout the same streets on the back of donkeys.



***HUMILIATED!**: Their faces blackened and with currency notes pinned to their clothes, Afghan men arrested by the Taliban militia for gambling in Kabul are paraded through the capital on the back of a truck.* - AFP photo

Two jailed for ignoring Ramazan

Kabul (AFP) - Two Kabul residents have been imprisoned for two months by the ruling Taliban religious militia for breaking fasting rules during the Muslim holy month of Ramadan, Radio Shariat reported Monday.

The two men were arrested on Sunday for violating their "religious obligations" during Ramadan which began Friday, the Taliban-run radio station announced.

"Sher Mohammed and Ghulam Daud, were punished according to Sharia (Islamic) law", the radio said.

A religious police official said the pair would be forced to fast while in prison.

The Taliban "theology students" captured the Afghan capital last September and now control two-thirds of the country. The religious police have said such prison terms can be avoided if the convict feeds 60 poor residents for a day, or one person for 60 days.

The Frontier Post, *January 14,1996*

A NATION IN THE CLAWS OF THE FUNDAMENTALISTS

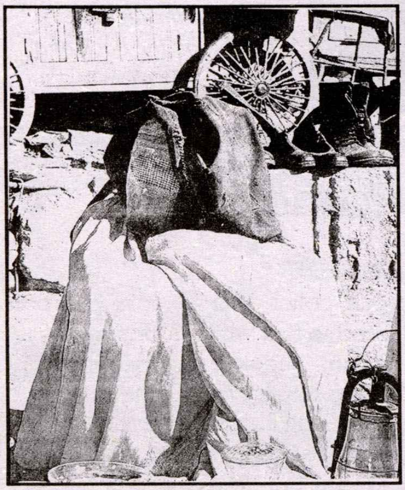
Raping, abusing and prostitution

Commanders have ten "wives"!

Women and girls were not safe. Girls were abducted by commanders and forced into marriage, that is raped. Commanders were reported to have as many as ten "wives". If the girls or their families objected or resisted they were often killed. Many families sent their girls and women away, often to Pakistan.

Female Afghan community health workers employed by Emergency Relief Unit, an NGO in Jalalabad, have been harassed by *shura* members for working in the displaced persons camps. One female health worker who was been driven to a camp was stopped by local militia and her driver was arrested for suspicion of immoral activities (that is driving a car with a woman at it who is not related to him). The woman was also threatened.

The News, *November 11, 1995*



A woman, in the grip of "Shariat" who lost her sole bread-winner, sells her belongings to earn much needed cash to help her get through Kabul's bitter winter.

Celebration of the conquest by raping

Women and girls all over Afghanistan live in constant fear of being raped by armed guards. For years, armed guards have been allowed to torture them in this way without fear of reprimand from their leaders. In fact, rape is apparently condoned by most leaders as a means of terrorizing conquered populations and of rewarding soldiers.

....

Some women have attempted suicide to avoid being raped... Fear of rape and other abuses has led many families to leave Kabul.

....

Torture of civilians in their homes has become endemic. Women and girls are treated as the spoils of war, being raped by armed guards or sold into prostitution. Unarmed civilians suspected of belonging to a rival ethnic group are routinely beaten and otherwise ill-treated.

AI, *November 1995*

Suicide to avoid rape

The Amnesty International report on women in Afghanistan says: "Armed group have massacred defenceless women in their homes, or have brutally beaten and raped them. Scores of young women have been abducted and then raped, taken as wives by commanders or sold into prostitution. Some have committed suicide to avoid such a fate. Scores of women have reportedly disappeared and several have been stoned to death. Many women are traumatised by the horrific abuses, they have suffered or witnessed."

The conquerors often celebrate by killing and raping women and looting property.

The Frontier Post, *August 4, 1995*

The gift of the "Islamic revolution": Body-selling

Beside professional prostitutes, some Afghan women were forced by circumstances to sell their bodies to make both ends meet. Their power-hungry leaders and commanders are responsible for pushing them into the flesh trade because continued fighting in Kabul and elsewhere in the war-ravaged country has killed their breadwinners and destroyed their homes. Women who lived in *Purdah* had to come out to beg or prostitute their bodies to feed themselves and their children

The News, *November 3,1995*

RAPING, ABUSING AND PROSTITUTION

Killing the dearest, the only way

The greatest tragedy is that there seems no end to the sufferings of Afghan women. As a result, the majority of the Afghan women are suffering from mental disorder and have become a burden for their own parents. An Afghan refugees says that all the time he is worried about his three daughters. There is no law to check crimes against women in Afghanistan. In many cases women in the recent past were raped and tortured by unknown criminals in various parts of Afghanistan.

The recovery of mass graves of women near Kabul about four months ago is a glaring proof of the sort of agony Afghan women were passing through. "To protect the honour of my daughters, I want my daughters to be married as early as possible. No matter whether she is nine years old or 12 years old," says a man.

A RAWA report claims that on September 15,1993 several women with worn-out dresses were seen in Bagh-e-Bala. The women, according to the report, told that they had escaped from a jail, controlled by a group which was later ousted from Kabul. The report says that there has been an incident in which a father killed his daughter to escape cruel treatment at the hands of criminals. The report alleges that in the absence of any law, criminals break into houses of people for looting and dishonoring the women.

War has so badly devastated the Afghan nation where suffering has reached unprecedented heights. The Afghan feel so helpless - in Peshawar an Afghan refugee, Habibullah, was seen selling his two-year-old grandson. The man said that all his family members had been killed in the war. "I am an old man and there is no one to look after the child", he says that he does not want money, but is looking for someone who could guarantee this grandson's well-being. There are numerous similar painful stories of Afghan women and children.

"WEEKEND POST",
August,25,1995

The fundamentalist youth

The *Sazman-i-Naujawanaan-i-Muslimaan*, Organization of Muslim Youth exists in Peshawar since many months. The organization through pamphlets and letters has warned the Afghan women to observe what they called Islamic Pardah and not to came outside their homes, otherwise they would have to face dire consequences.

The involvement of these fanatic Afghan youths confirmed when the Peshawar police recently recovered bodies of three Afghan women from the unpolluted areas on Charsadda road.

The Nation
June 1, 1994

The fundamentalist's gift: Prostitution

Paktina (30) a resident of Kabul, a higher secondary student who had to migrate to Pakistan:

We had a business of tin food and garments in Kabul. We were forced to leave Kabul by the warring groups who attacked our city, a year ago. I had three brothers, they were killed in bomb explosions. My father was murdered by unknown killers two days before we left for Pakistan.

Since we have no earning member in the family, I had to go for this dirty and disgraceful business to sustain my four sisters and our mother. When we arrived first in Peshawar, I visited many offices of aid agencies for job. But I could not have one. So, I was forced to go for the immoral means. First when I turned to this was when I took my sister to a Peshawar hospital (she did not tell which). A dispenser took me to his house. But now even this immoral way of living is not helping because it is being crowded by newcomers. Not only the Pakistanis but many of our "Afghan brothers" are there to push us to doing this.

Danya (18), came from Kabul along with her uncle, four years ago, a student at an Afghan school:

I have recently joined the bad women's group. About a year ago I was standing near my house in the Ganj area of Peshawar waiting for the school bus. An Afghan young man whom we knew from Kabul, came on motorcycle and offered a lift. From that time I am doing this and am earning living for my uncle and his wife. I was sent here by my parents for fear of attack by the mujahideen since I was growing up and was the only unmarried female among my sisters (3) who are living back in Kabul.

DIPLOMAT
February 1994

A NATION IN THE CLAWS OF THE FUNDAMENTALISTS

Looting and destruction

Rival fundamentalists clash causes losses

Kabul had changed drastically since I first saw it some 20 years ago. Then, it was a fine city combining the modern with the historical, like so many cities of the northern sub-continent. But today, it is merely a shadow of its former self, filled with the shell-like structures of ruined buildings and inhabited by people who scurry from one place to another in a manner which shows how frightened they are.

The ravages of over a decade of war are present everywhere. The ruined buildings, the number of cripples one can see on the streets, the sense of suspicion which lurks everywhere, is a testimony of the destruction war can cause in a country. Afghanistan is in danger of being buried completely under both the physical and emotional rubble of war, and there is no doubt that it will be some years before it is able to recover.

The News
August 16, 1996



Members of a family are searching for the dead bodies of their relatives among the debris of their destroyed house in Kabul.

Criminals rampage residential areas

Most of the victims were unarmed women and children. Between 21 and 24 October at least 95 people were killed and over 290 wounded in bombardments aimed solely at residential areas where there was no military activity. Artillery and mortar fire around Kabul University, the Deh Mazang area and the so-called Television Mountain the same month killed at least 45 people and wounded 150. Eye-witnesses reported that one of the bombs hit a school which was being used as a shelter for displaced people, killing 10.

....

On 12 March President Rabbani's soldiers reportedly rampaged through Karte Seh, looting houses, killing and beating unarmed civilians, and raping women.

***AI**, November 1995*

Jehadi gifts

February 27: The militia of Gulbadin and Dostum have started harassing and looting the citizens of 'Karte-Now' and 'Shah Habib.'

Bakhtar correspondent quotes an eye-witness as saying that the citizens of 'Karte Now' and 'Shah Habib', who are shifting their belongings to safe places in the city, are being beaten up and looted on their way by the militia men. The indifferent attitude of Gulbadin towards the Kabul citizens have added to their hardships and difficulties.

THE MUSLIM,
February 26, 1995

Kabul (AFP)- A United Nations convoy carrying 200 tonnes of wheat flour to Kabul has been looted by mujahedeen forces loyal to Afghan Prime Minister Gulbadin Hekmatyar.

The 16-vehicle UN convoy was looted Wednesday at Sarobi, a district center 70 kilometers east of the capital, by a Hezb-i-Islami commander in protest at two days of jet bombordment apparenty ordered by Hekmatyar's rival, ex-defence minister Ahmad Shah Masood.

The Frontier Post,
November 19,1993

A NATION IN THE CLAWS OF THE FUNDAMENTALISTS

Killing, torturing and death

Fundamentalists' gift: barrage of rockets

January 31: The Afghan capital Kabul was blasted by a barrage of over four hundred rockets on Monday.

State run Radio Kabul siad a large number of people were killed and wounded in the attack. A barrage of 467 rockets was one of the heaviest since the fighting bigan on January 1. The Radio said the attack was made by the forces of General Rashid Dostum and Hizbe Islami leader Gulbaddin Hekmatyar who were desperately fighting to topple the government of Rabbani.

THE MUSLIM, *December 30, 1994*



Bombing aimed at pressuring Kabulis

ISLAMABAD (AFP) - The use of dogs of war pilots to bomb Kabul by the Taliban Islamic militia was a deliberate move to step up pressure on Presinent Burhanddin Rabbani, analysts said Monday.

Pilots who have previously worked for the deposed communist government and mujahedeen factions were in the three bombers that raided Kabul on Sunday, according to Afghan sources.

The worst raid that Kabul has known through the country's many years of conflict left at least 39 dead - including 13 children - and 140 injured.

The Taliban admitted they carried out the attack but said the pilots had targetted military positions.

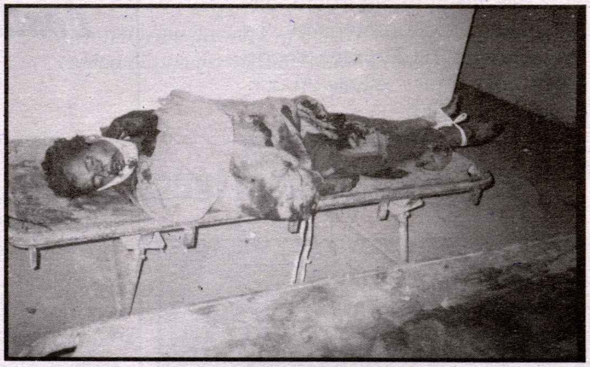
The Frontier Post, *November 28,1995*

Taliban pounded barrage of rockets on Kabul

As reported in The New York Times of February 5,1996, a doctor at the Karte Seh hospital, Kabul, watching stretcher bearers carrying in the body of a 14-year old boy whose brain had been blown out of his skull by a Taliban bombing said, "Ah, the Russian time-that was golden, compared to this".

The most unfortunate role in devastating Afghanistan has been played by the Taliban forces. Last year when they began their drive against the government they were welcomed as saviors. But their intolerance and ruthlessness vis-a-vis their opponents has cost Afghans a lot. Called as "Islamic Liberators" they have played havoc with the lives of their own people by pounding Kabul with hundreds of rockets and killing thousands of innocent people. The blockade of Kabul by Taliban and other so-called mujahideen commanders led to severe shortage of food, fuel and medical items in the city. 1.3 million people of Kabul curse the Taliban and other mujahideen groups for being ruthless and for taking the lives of more than 50,000 people by firing countless rockets in the city.

The News, *February 28,1996*



Payam-e-Zan photo

An innocent victim of the jehadi infighting.

Kabul conflict casualties top 12,000

Kabul (AFP) - Casualties in the Kabul factional fighting between forces for and against President Burhanuddin Rabbani have topped 12,000 with 800 to 900 killed, the International Committee of the Red Cross (IRCR) said Tuesday.

The Frontier Post, *February 2,1994*

KILLING, TORTURING AND DEATH

10,000 killed in 8 months in Kabul

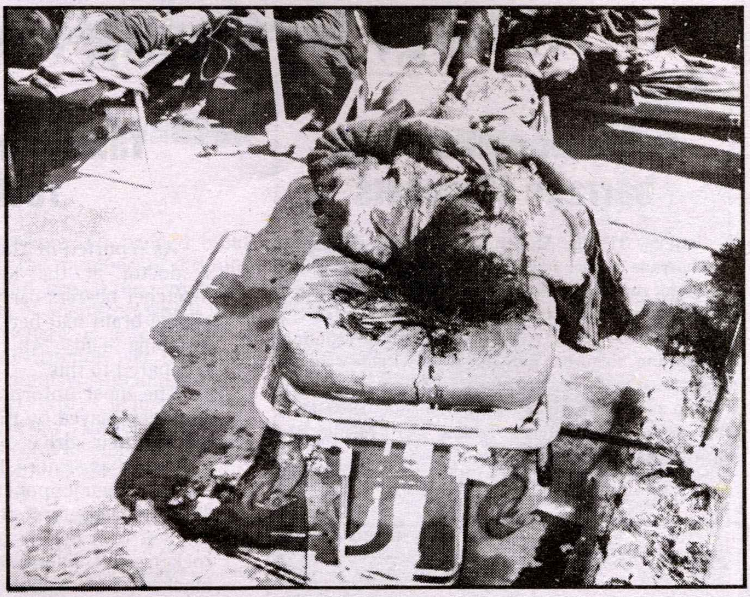
Felix Ermacora in his report to the UN General Assembly's third committee and also during an interview with journalists, said during the past eight months more than 10,000 people had been killed in Kabul.

In his report Ermacora noted that in Kabul some 36,000 houses had been partly or fully destroyed and more than 30,000 damaged. Approximately 110,000 families had been displaced and thousands of persons killed or wounded during the battles in and around the city, he said.

"Numerous cases of rape and ill-treatment by armed persons have been reported.", he said. "A reliable source said that women have never been treated in Afghanistan with such a lack of respect as in recent months".

The threat to the right to life "has been characterised by massacres of all Afghans, regardless of their ethnic background,", he said.

TheFrontierPost,
November .28,1993



Many civilians died before receiving any treatment



Through torture and execution, fundamentalists implement their plan of systematically terrorising the masses.

Destiny of the captives under the fundamentalism reign

A man arrested by *Shura-e-Nezar* in early 1994 in Kabul told AI:

"I was put in an isolated cell. In the interrogation room, I could hear cries of pain from cells around me. They interrogated me by putting a picture of a person in front of me asking who he was. I did not know, so they gave me electric shocks. They brought some people from their 'committee to protect faith'. They started a new course of torture. They put one of my testicles between a pair of pliers and crushed it. It have had severe pain since then."

....

Torture is reportedly systematic and widespread in *Hezb-e Islami* (Hekmatyar) prisons, sometimes resulting in death. The prisoners are forced to learn the Quran by heart and to do hard labour. Some are made to clear mines or dig trenches. Prisoners with medical or military training are forced to work in hospitals or to operate military equipment.

AI, November 1995

A NATION IN THE CLAWS OF THE FUNDAMENTALISTS

Starvation, begging and homelessness

90,000 war-displaced Afghans enter Kabul in three weeks

ISLAMABAD (AFP) - Around 90,000 Afghans displaced by fighting, forced evacuations and other military activities north of Kabul have entered the Afghan capital over the past three weeks, a UN agency said Monday.

The influx comes as Kabul's own million remaining inhabitants are already living on the edge, it said.

Most of the inhabitants of the fertile, densly populated region to the north of Kabul have already fled, the agency said.

The majority of those left behind are "too poor, old or sick" to leave the area, the agency said.

Heavy fighting in Badghis over the past three months had displaced some 50,000 people, UNOCHA said.

The Frontier Post, *January 28,1997*

Gift of the fundamentalists

Some 300,000 to 400,000 residents about half of Kabul's population - have been driven from their homes, according to the International Committee of the Red Cross.

Some have fled Kabul, other have found shelter with relatives or friends. But about 50,000 people are living in mosques, schools and abandoned buildings.

"It's becoming one of the biggest displacement emergencies in the world", Colville said.

He said 27,000 recent arrivals in one of the new camps in Jalalabad were trying to survive without any form of shelter.

The Frontier Post, *May 5,1994*

Cold, hunger claim 10 lives daily among Afghans

ISLAMABAD (AFP) - About 10 refugees fleeing fighting in Afghanistan's northwest provinces die from hunger and cold each day, UN sources said Tuesday.

An estimated 50,000 Afghans from northwest Badghis province have been forced to flee fighting between the Islamic Taliban militia and the opposition forces of northern warlord Abdul Rashid Dostum over the past three months, the sources said.

The Frontier Post, *January 29,1997*



SO IT HAS COME TO THIS? An old man collects rice which fell from the back of a truck on a road of the Afghan capital to support his family in the coming harsh winter.

APF photo

"Kabul facing food crisis"

"Food is still the main problem in Kabul," commented Joerg Stoecklin, press officer of the International Committee of the Red Cross. "The idea is not to provide total needs,just a supplement. But the big question remains is this enough?" Stoecklin said.

The Red Cross spokesman stated that the war-weary population of Kabul estimated at 800,000 to 1.2 milion was not facing imminent famine, but a grave crisis due to the high price of food.

According to Red Cross and other agency statistics, at least 25 percent of Kabul's population currently receive supplementary food rations; another 28,000-odd beneficiaries receive subsidized bread from special bakeries.

An "average salary" is what aid agencies consider a civil servant is paid - if he is paid - which is about 120,000 afghani per month, Stoecklin noted. For example the Red Cross issues 10 kilograms of cooking oil as a half-ration every tow months. -AFP

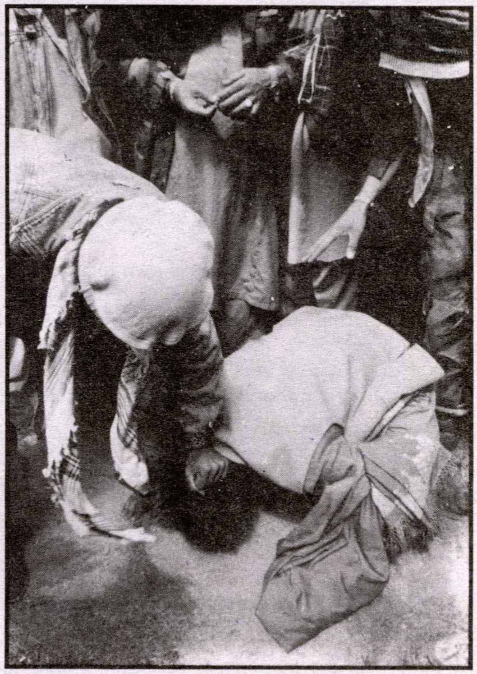
A NATION IN THE CLAWS OF THE FUNDAMENTALISTS

Inhuman treatment and obscurantism

Raping license

During the Soviet invasion when the war was at its risk peak, the factional groups stormed villages and towns and subjected both women and children to inhuman treatment. It is reportedly said that apart from the some local commanders, several Arabs, fighting the holy war, have forcibly marries Afghan women, but as an Afghan says, "All is 'fair' in fighting communism. Unfortunately, no one was there to highlight the sufferings of those women.

The Frontier Post, *August 4,1995*



Jehadis in action

Taliban and the "proper" beard

Peshawar Dec 2: The Taliban are said to have arrested dozens of Afghans and sent them behind the bars until they are able to grow 'proper beard' as ordered by the Islamic movement chief. Mulla Mohammad Umar Akhund last week, said the Afghan sources here.

According to Afghan sources the Taliban were likely to nab majority of those Afghans who were without beard and keep them in jails for about 45 days. The Islamic Movement fighters, who consider growing beard as purely religious obligation, believed that 45 days were enough for the fulfilment of the required religious obligation.

There were also reports that the Taliban have banned women clad in white or black chadar of Iranian style, from sitting and traveling in public transport and private taxis. Similaly the taxi drivers have also been asked to avoid listening music as it was un-Islamic. Video and audio shops were being closed down amid reports that a number of Taliban groups were raiding houses as well as restaurants to take off pictures and paintings from the walls. Besides, the Taliban were engaged in collecting house-holds and commodities which they believed un-Islamic.

THE MUSLIM, *December 2,1996*



Taliban in action

Consequence of girls teaching

"One day, a group of about 60 Mujahideen guards from Hezb-e-Islami of Gulbuddin Hekmatyar came to his house and told him he was to be executed because he had been teaching girls. They had a sharp axe and began to beat him. My brother kept shouting 'don't kill me, I am Muslim, don't kill me', but the guards said 'how could you have been a Muslim when you were teaching girls?"

***AI**, November 1995*

A NATION IN THE CLAWS OF THE FUNDAMENTALISTS

Self-immolation and suicide

Fundamentalists' hands soaked with Nahid's blood

'Nahid was a 16-year-old high school student living with her family in Microrayan. In mid 1992 her house was raided by armed Mujahideen guards who had come to take her. The father and family resisted. Nahid ran to the fifth floor of the apartment block and threw herself off the balcony. She died instantly.

"Her father put her body on a bed frame and wanted to carry it in the streets to show the people what had happened to her, but the Mujahideen groups stopped him."

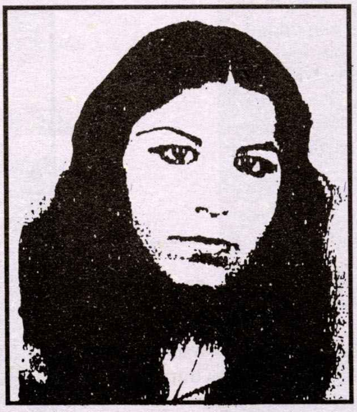
***AI**, May 1995*



Naheed

Self-immolation of Zhala Ejlal

On July 4,1994 an Afghan woman, Zhala Ejlal burnt herself in front of the UN office in New Delhi as a gesture of protest against the inhuman treatment of the *jehadi* traitors.



Three *jehadi* criminals wanted to drag Zhala towards prostitution to satisfy their lust. But she in order to save her honour set herself ablaze and died. She is one of the hundreds ill-fated Afghan women who in fear of rape and dishonoring in the hands of Afghan fundamentalists had resorted to suicide to avoid gang-raping.

Payam-e-Zan, *No.38*

Suicide to avoid rape

...The educated women's lot which is restricted to Kabul city, was never faced with a brutal treatment at the hands of their own countrymen, till 1992. But on the other hand, the women folk in remote areas who had been facing ill-treatment, had no one to speak on their behalf or solve their problems for them.

With no law and check it is said that women are being purchased by the rich commanders and the trend of polygamy is on the increase in Afghanistan.

In a number of incidents, women have been barred from working in offices by the various factions. Women not observing *hejab* (purdah) are being punished by the factional leaders and commanders.

Several Afghan women have reportedly committed suicide to avoid being raped. In at least one case, a father who saw Mujahideen guards coming for his daughter reportedly killed her before she could be taken away.

The Frontier Post
August 4,1995

A NATION IN THE CLAWS OF THE FUNDAMENTALISTS

Abduction and detention

Hundreds rounded up by Taliban

Kabul (AFP) - Hundreds of civilians have been rounded up in Kabul by the Taliban militia since it captured the Afghan capital from the last government here six weeks ago, locals here said Sunday.

Scores of locals say many of the men taken in are Panjshiris or are from the minority Tajik ethnic group, triggering a wave of terror in the community.

Hundreds of other men are being rounded up and arrested here almost every day, but most are released without charge after a few days, a local who was detained for three days last week said.

"I was held with about 450 other men, all civilians, who were apparently suspected of cooperating with the former government or of harbouring arms," he said on condition of anonymity.

The man, a teacher in his 30s who denies any links with the ousted administration of president Burhanuddin Rabbani, said he and 30 other men were held for three nights in city-centre administrative building in a cramped room with no toilet facilities.

He saw other prisoners in similar conditions throughout the building as he was led out with other men at night to dig trenches on the frontlines 30 kilometers (12 miles) north of the capital

Hafisa, a woman in her mid-20s, said her Panjshiri brother was dragged out of the north-west Kabul home by Taliban fighters two weeks ago. He has not been seen since.

"Taliban soldiers burst in at 11:30 p.m. saying they were searching for illegal weapons," she said. "The same thing happened to many of our neighbours too."

"We told them we had none, but they beat the family and then took away my brother for questioning which was the last time we saw him. We're worried sick but can't get any word from the authorities about his health and whereabouts," she added.

Other Panjishiris told how they escaped as Islamic fighters attempted to seize them in their homes.

***The Frontier Post**,*
November 11,1996

Gang raping

UN deputy head of mission on Afghanistan Francis Okelo said that Afghanistan has been at war for the last 16 years of which 10 against external enemy and six against itself. The death and destruction inflicted on the country in the last six years exceeds the tragedy it suffered till Russians' departure. Afghanistan is more ruthless to itself than was its enemy. And those who have and continue to suffer the most are innocent children who are totally bewildered at the stupidity of their adults.

Professor Shamim Akhtar who came from Karachi in his paper quoting several Amnesty International reports said that Afghanistan presents a spectacle of human rights catastrophe with women and children being the worst sufferers because of thier vulnerability. The professor counted the reported incidents in which the commanders abducted women and children. The women were gang rapped and the childern abused through various ways.

***The News**, November 18, 1996*

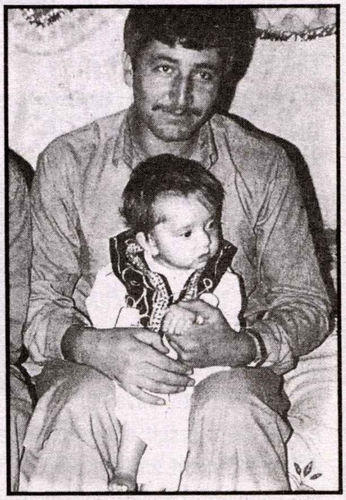
Taliban unleashes a reign of terror in Kabul

In the few days the Taliban have controlled Kabul, their armed militia have taken prisoner up to 1,000 civilians during house to house searches throughout the city, according to information received by Amnesty International.

"Despite statements from their leadership suggesting moderation, it is clear that Taliban guards are busily implementing a reign of terror in Kabul," Amnesty International said. "Families are afraid to go out into the streets, afraid to answer their doors, and afraid that their loved ones will suffer the brutal consequence of being found 'un-Islamic' by the militia."

"The families of those already taken prisoner are now suffering the agony of not knowing where their sons, brothers and fathers are, what has happened to them, or whether they are alive or dead."

AI, *October 2,1996*



Ahmad Ershad Mangal was taken into unacknowledged detention by Hezb-e-Islami *(Hekmatyar) in 1 November 1989 in Peshawar.*
AI photo

A NATION IN THE CLAWS OF THE FUNDAMENTALISTS

Stoning, amputation and execution

Verdict in the name of *Shariat*

PESHAWAR: The firstever amputation of hands and feet of three Afghans convicted of theft was recently carried out in Helmand province in southwestern Afghanistan on the orders of Islamic courts established by the Taliban.

Two men found guilty of murder were earlier executed in Kandahar while yet another person was publicly flogged. Some others were made to pay blood-money to escape execution.

Talat Khan, Abdul Samad and Mohammad, all in thier 20s and belonging to Helmand, were charged with highway robbery and sentenced by an Islamic court in the provincial capital, Lashkargah.

A few thousand people flocked to Lashkargah after public announcements were made to witness the amputation in an open ground. Eyewitnesses said a Qazi (judge) narrated the background of the case before signalling the two government doctors, Abdul Baqi and Akbar Khan, to perform the amputation under local anaesthesia.

***The News**, March 1,1995*

Execution for refusing forced marriage

There is no right of safe return to Afghanistan for women living in Pakistan, espicially widows. Widows have no protection, no rihgt to employment or benefits and no guarantees of security. Women could be targeted for revenge killing by a particular party or tribe or just because they are educated. Widows living in Pakistan whose husbands were members of the former communist-backed regime consider themselves to be in great danger of execution if they try to return to Afghanistan. Widows in Afghanistan are often forced to marry their brother-in-law or other relative in their husband's family. In a village near Mazar-i-Sharif, village women claimed that a year ago a widow was hung for refusing to marry her deceased husband's cousin.

***The News**, November 11,1995*

30 execution in one night

The Taliban have been responsible for the killing of hundreds of innocent people in indiscriminate rocket attacks against residential areas in and around Kabul. Their leaders have frequently ordered the execution of suspected opponents - in July this year, 30 young men were executed in Herat in one night. Retreating soldiers, and those who surrendered to the Taliban in Herat last year where also summarily executed.

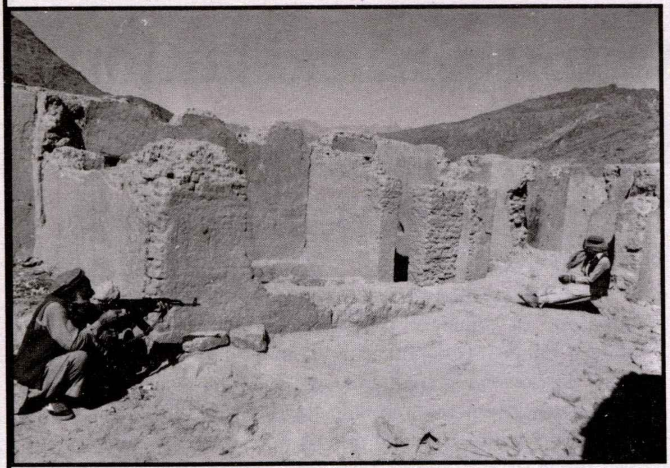
Civilians in areas already taken over by the Taliban have been denied basic and fundamental human rights. Arbitrary punishment such as stoning and amputations have been introduced, and severe restrictions placed on women.

AI, *September 27,1996*



Talat Khan, a young Afghan convicted for theft, whose right hand and left foot were amputated on the orders of the Islamic court established by the Taliban in Lashkargah.

STONING, AMPUTATION AND EXECUTION



A man is being executed by the jehadi fundamentalists in Kunar province

Traitors haven't the right of execution

On March 30,1996, once again a big crowd of people had gathered in Zarnegar Park, Kabul, to watch the execution of their three ill-fated compatriots. According to the so-called special court, last year these three men, after killing two shepherd, looted their herd and a wrist-watch.

A "government" official named Andarabi said to the journalists: "The act of these three men is against the law and order of an Islamic society."

But before hanging, according to the AFP reports, the men who were sentenced to *Jihadi* execution, while abusing the executors, shouted that it is not fair that they are being hanged and their accomplices - both government soldiers - just sentenced to 10-20 year confinement. Those three ill-fated men at the moment of hanging, realized the Islamic government injustice to exonerate two of their accomplices which certainly will not remain in prison for more than a year. But in the view of Kabul residents, if the poor criminals like those three men are hanged publicly, the traitors based in Kabul and other provinces must be hanged several times over, because they themselves are the oldest and the most notorious criminals and rapists of our country. It is only possible through this way that real law and security in our country could be established and we can bury the filth of fundamentalism for ever!

Payam-e-Zan, *No.44*

Stoning in the name of *Shariat*

According to reports, two men accused of murder were killed in Kandahar in early 1995 after a four-member Islamic court had ordered their "execution".

The punishment of stoning is also apparently ordered by some Islamic courts. AI has received two reports of stoning since 1993; but it believes the number of people subjected to this form of cruel, inhuman and degrading punishment may be much higher. In early 1994 an Islamic judge reportedly ordered the "execution" of four men and the stoning of one woman in Kandahar province. His orders were said to have been carried out. A family leaving Kabul for Pakistan through Jalalabad in May 1993 told AI that they had recently witnessed a woman being stoned to death:

"in Sarobi we saw a lot of people standing by on the river bank. We were told that a woman was being stoned near the river. We went forward and I saw her being stoned. We were told she had been married to an *Hezb-e Islami* (Hekmatyar) commander who had then disappeared and had not been heard of for eight years. His wife's father had allowed the wife to marry another man. Now, the commander had come back and found out about the marriage. He told his men to find the woman and stone her."

(AI)

Atrocities and heinous crimes of the fundamentalists in Afghanistan: A challenge to world conscience.

A NATION IN THE CLAWS OF THE FUNDAMENTALISTS

Terrorists' trainers

Where there is war there are Afghan fundamentalists

Peshawar: Are the Afghans really fighting in distant Chechnya, Azerbaijan. Bosnia, Tajikistan and Kashmir? This question has cropped up again in the wake of allegations by some Russian government leaders that Afghans were fighting alongside the rebellious Chechen Muslims.

Arabs fighting their conservative, pro-West government in Algeria and Egypt also have some Afghan war veterans in their ranks, who are considered more radical and better trained. But they are Arabs and not Afghans even though they are referred to as Afghans for having fought in the Afghan Jehad.

"We probably have the largest force of battle-hardened men in the world. Jobless and with no hope of a better future in war-ravaged Afghanistan, our young men are ready to fight yet another jehad even if it is in a distant Muslim land," said an Afghan leader, requesting anonymity.

The presence of Afghan mujahideen in Chechnya has become a bone of contention between President Rabbani's government and its numerous opponents. Engineer Yunis, a representative of former militia warlord Rasheed Dostum in Moscow, alleged a few days ago that Rabbani and his right-hand man Ahmad Shah Masood had sent Afghans to Grozny, capital of Chechnya, to fight against Russian troops and also against Chechens opposed to President Dzhokar Dudayev's government.

The presence of Afghans in the Bosnian frontlines has also been reported, though a conclusive proof of their involvement was never presented. The Indian government has also alleged that foreigners, including Afghans and Arabs, were fighting alongside Kashmiris against Indian troops in Jammu and Kashmir.

There are indication that some Afghans have fought in Azerbaijan and occupied Kashmir but their presence in Bosnia, Azerbaijan and Chechnya hasn't been proved, Rival Afghan groups often blame each other for involvement in these and other crisis in distant lands.

As Afghanistan's neighbour, Tajikistan is the easiest place for Afghans to infiltrate. And they have been doing so quite often, with Massod's men reportedly providing every support to the anti-communist Tajik alliance. Other Afghan groups are also involved, including some mujahideen commanders in border provinces like Badakhshan, Takhar and Kunduz acting on their own.

***The News**, December 17,1994*

"Afghan" Chechens in Afghanistan

Peshawar: Top chechen Commander Shamyl Basayev twice visited Pakistan to organise a string of military training for his fighters in the neighbouing Afghanistan, investigators and Arab sources said.

Shamyal soon after his arrival from Baku, capital of Azerbaijan, stayed for a few days in Peshawar before moving across the Pak-Afghan border into Afghanistan to oversee training arrangements at Al-Khuldan camp in Khost, Afghanistan's southern province bordering Pakistan. He left immediately after, only to return again in May to make arrangements for a group of 40 chechens to take military training in Afghanistan.

These sources said Zrar Esa Musa, a Jordanian chechen, carrying the pseudonyam of Mohammad Mansoor was Shamyl's relation who fought in the Afghan *Jehad* and ran Sayyaf's propaganda video section, "the Mirror of Afghan *Jehad*". He left Pakistan for Jordan in the summer of 1988 and was killed a year later in an operation against Israelis across the river Jordan in September 1989.

Another of his Jordanian-Chechen relation, Fathi, who is an expert on telecommunication and had helped Sayysf in setting up a network during his 10 years of involvement in the Afghan *Jehad* also moved to Chechenya after her declaration of independence in December, 1991.

***The News,** August 19, 1995*

Hekmatyar sending troops to Azerbaijan

Peshawar, March 24: The Hezbe Islami Afghanistan (Hekmatyar group) has stepped up the recruitment of fighters for the Republic of Azerbaijan and a group of about 500 Afghans were now said to be on their way to Baku.

The recruitments for the purpose were mostly being made in Peshawar by Commander Fazle Haq Mujahid and several groups had already been despatched to Azerbaijan for different duties.

THE MUSLIM, *May 23,1994*

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Eight 60 minutes audio cassettes of patriotic and revolutionary songs

Buying these cassettes means a financial contribution to RAWA and helping the anti-fundamentalist struggle of the Afghan women.



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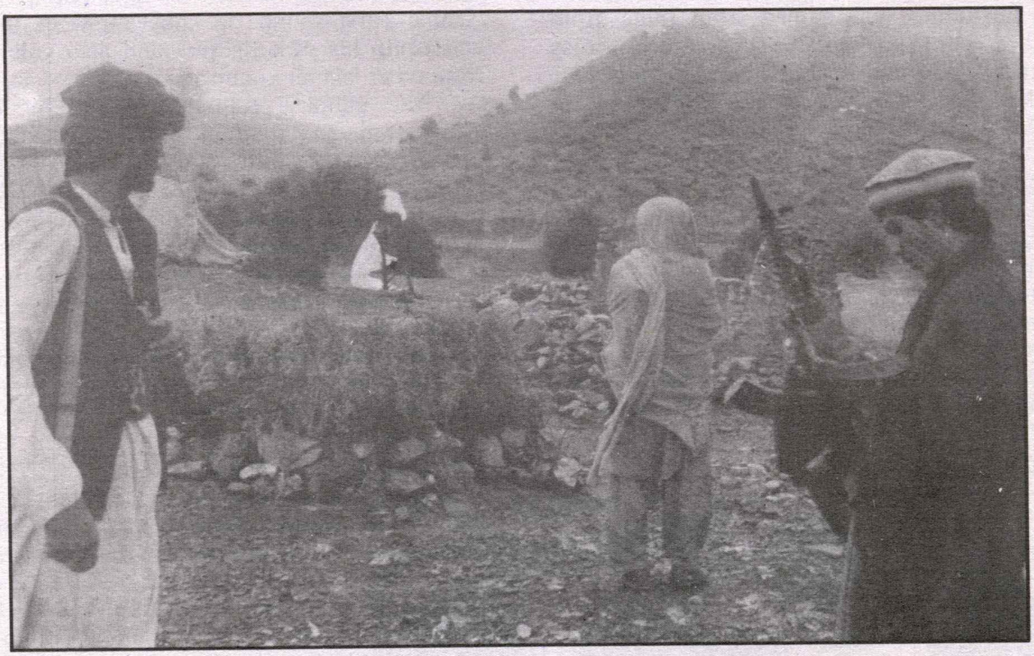
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Afghanistan: The launching ground for international terrorists

Anarchic and governed by law of the jungle, Afghanistan is a safe haven for the terrorists all over the world. Due to mass scale crime and killings by the *jehadi* and Taliban fundamentalists and rampant arms, Afghanistan has become a favourite training venue for terrorists eager to learn these brute skills. The international community, especially the countries which have provided arms and money to these miscreants during the anti-Russia war, must realise that unless base-camps of terrorists in Afghanistan are uprooted, the night-mares like the bombing of World Trade Center, blowing up of Israel Embassy in Argentina, bloody civil strife in Algeria and ... will recur in other parts of the globe also.

Just to substantiate this point, it might be recalled that notorious terrorists like Ramzy Yosuf and Ben Laden were trained in these camps of the Afghan fundamentalists.



Al Bader: Terrorists field *- The world must know that if in the past there was just one Al Badre, now the whole Afghanistan has turned into Al Badre.*

2000 'Afghan' Arab terrorists

As Pakistani investigators gather information on Ramzi, sources estimate that at least 2000 people are engaged in military training in camps for *jehad* in Afghanistan. But the training is not limited to the borders of Aghanistan. The adjoining Province of NWFP is also a breeding ground for militant activities. More than 2000 Arabs are living in the NWFP. Many of them came to Pakistan to participate in the Afghan *jehad* and overstayed thier welcome. Most of them are suspected of being involved in terrorist activities here as well as overseas.

WEEKEND POST, 1995

Afghanistan: The launching ground for international terrorists

Al-Bader, the safe haven for international terrorists

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The camp where Abbasi is receiving his baptism in warfare is called Al-Badr. It was named thus by deposed Afghan "prime minister" Gulbaddin Hekmatyar's *Hezb-i-Islami.* Hundreds of Afghans, Pakistanis and Muslim militants from certain other countries have received their military training at the camp. Some of the trainees have chalked their names on the roadside rocks, including one named Abu Talha from Cheecha Watni in Punjab. One comes across graffiti, in Urdu and Arabic, like '*Jamaat-i-Islami Zindabad - Shaheen Group*' and ' Victory is at hand,' all over the place.

....

In fact, there are two camps in the area which go by the names Al-Badr I and Al-Badr II. Both were raided and shut down by the Taliban Islamic movement on September 17 on the plea that the *Hezb-i-Islami's* (Hekmatyar) was using them for anti-Taliban activities in Khost.

...

Syed Abdullah a Taliban high-ranking member said: "Qazi Hussain Ahmad'd *Jamaat-i-Islami* is very close to *Hezb-i-Islami* and the two were jointly running these camps."



Arab militants, active in Afghanistan, cover their faces following the execution of two men by Taliban in Khost.

....

But what Syed Abdullah didn't explain was the fact that the camps have now been handed over to the Harkatul Ansar, a militant Islamist group that is believed to have been sending volunteers to fight in Afghanistan, Indian-occupied Jammu and Kashmir and even certain other trouble spots.

....

Interestingly, *Hezb-i-Islami's* pointsman for running the camps and establishing links with like-minded groups and individuals from other countries was its well-known commander Khalid Farooqui while those from Taliban ranks now assisting in this task appear to be Mullah Wahidyar, Mansoor and Jalaluddin Haqqani. The latter has been running a huge camp called 'Salman Farsi Ghund' in Khost for years to train and equip his own fighters and also volunteers from other Islamic countries.

The military training camps in Khost attracted much attention when deposed prime minister Benazir Bhutto and her interior minister Maj Gen (retd) Naseerullah Babar publicly alleged that they were used to impart training to a number of Pakistanis who later indulged in terrorist activities. Both wished the camps to be closed down as they were posing a security threat to Pakistan.

Ms Bhutto had also complained about the activities of Arab volunteers who came to Pakistan during the Afghan *"jehad"* and later stayed on, prompting governments in Egypt, Algeria and Saudi Arabia to complain to Islamabad that these militants were using Pakistan's soil to mount terrorist attacks in their countries.

....

The Al-Badr I and II are not the only military training camps in Khost. Nearby is another spacious camp fenced by barbed wire and approachable by jeep. The *Harkatul Ansar* militants informed that about 50 Arabs and some Muslims activists from other countries were living there. They said many more volunteers from other countries, including Kashmiris, were to be found in the 'Salman Farsi Ghund' located farther in the mountains.

The News

November 15,1996

Afghanistan: The launching ground for international terrorists

Afghanistan war and the global narco-terrorist force

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By falling for a British-authored geopolitical strategy of encouraging the spread of a virulently anti-Western, nominally Islamic form of fundamentalism, the United States gave aid and comfort to the creation of a new terrorist international - far more deadly than the earlier global terrorist apparatus that stalked world leaders during the decade of the 1970s. The new terrorist international - built around the mujahideen veterans of the 1979-89 Afghan War - is responsible for such terrorist incidents as the February 1993 World Trade Center bombing in New York City. And British intelligence-controlled operatives, such as Lord William ReesMogg's underling Dr. Jack Wheeler, who were actively involved in the recruitment and training of the Afghani mujahideen, were implicated before the fact in the April 1995 bombing of the federal building in Oklahoma City, which claimed 168 lives.

Over the ten-year period that followed Brzezinski's visit to the Khyber Pass, the United States would officially pour $3 billion into the Afghan mujahideen war against the Red Army, a relatively small fraction of the total cost of the effort. A broad spectrum of nations - from Britain and Israel, to Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Egypt, China, and even Iran - would collectively contribute an equal amount of money.

According to one well-placed US intelligence source, the combined Medellin and Cali Cartel contribution to the Afghan mujahideen was $10-20 billion!

....

prior to the outbreak of the Afghan War in 1979, the region's opium production had been relatively small.... The Afghan War changed all of that. Not only did the Golden Crescent of Southwest Asia surpass the Southeast Asian Golden Triangle in opium production in the mid-1980s; by the same date, Pakistan's opium addict population had skyrocketed to over 1.3 million people. In 1980, the figure was 5,000.

In the aftermath of the Soviet military withdrawal from Afghanistan in February 1989, Afghanistan degenerated into a battlefield of rival mujahideen factions, who were more interested in controlling the lucrative opium poppy fields and in using the wartime military bases and vast stockpiles of hardware as training grounds for a whole new generation of international terrorists.

At the center of both the drug and the terror efforts was Gulbuddin Hekmatyar, the head of one of Afghanistan's seven rival mujahideen factions, who enjoyed the most active support of Pakistan's British-trained and - modeled military intelligence agency, the inter-Service Intelligence (ISI).

Although American diplomats and intelligence offices posted in Pakistan often warned of Hekmatyar's strong anti-western and pro-Iranian views, speculated about possible Soviet KGB links, and even acknowledged his undisputed status as Afghanistan's "Heroin King," his forces received the largest portion of American and other international military support throughout the Afghan War. Intelligence reports back to Washington about the progress of the war were notoriously biased, and filled with misinformation portraying Hekmatyar's mujahideen as the most successful fighters.

....

When Ronald Reagan was inaugurated president in January 1981, the US objective in Afghanistan shifted. No longer satisfied to heap additional penalties on the Soviets, the Reagan administration sought to drive the Red Army out of Afghanistan. To accomplish this, it was estimated that a mujahideen fighting force of no less than 150,000 trained and well-equipped troops would have to be created. To accomplish this, a worldwide recruitment effort was conducted, which stretched from the Afghani exile communities in Europe, to North Africa, to other parts of the Islamic world, to the streets of America.

By the time the Red Army completed its pullout from Afghanistan, in February 1989, the ranks of the Afghan mujahideen groups were swelled with combatants who had been recruited to fight the "Great Atheistic Satan" in Moscow. Out of that operation evolved a mercenary force, currently estimated at over 10,000, who have shifted their anger from Moscow to the West, and who now comprise the largest labour pool of potential terrorists ever seen.

....

Among the largest "Afghan veteran" contingents: 5,000 Saudis, 3,000 Yemenis, 2,000 Egyptians, 2,800 Algerians, 400 Tunisians, 370 Iraqis, and 200 Libyans. According to a *jane's* report, the Chechen capital of Grozny became "a key transit point for Arab veterans of the Afghan War."

....

Fifteen years later, when some of the very Afghani mujahideen who had given Moscow a bloody nose were turned loose as an international terrorist force, carrying out some of their most heinous crimes on the streets of America (including at the front gate of the CIA headquarters), a senior CIA officer who had played a central role in the Afghan War admitted to *New York Times* reporter Tim Weiner that, back in the late 1970s and early '80s, when the United States first began pouring in billions of dollars in aid to the Afghans, it had never occurred to anyone inside US intelligence that the programme would blow back in such a bloody fashion.

***The Frontier Post**, October 22,1995*

Afghanistan: The launching ground for international terrorists



Three foreigner captured in fighting by Rabbani troops are interviewed by journalists. From left are a wounded Palestinian and two Pakistanis. All said they joined Hekmatyar's faction to get military training in Afghanistan. - AFP photo



Sheikh Omar ex-CIA agent: Egypt

CAIRO, April 2 (AFP): The spiritual head of Egypt's Islamists Sheikh Omar Abdel Rahman was an agent for the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA), a senior Egyptian official said in remarks published Sunday.

It is the ...

ing ...

THE MUSLIM April 3,1995

Kashmiri fundamentalists in Afghanistan

Jameel's real name was Ali, who belonged to Rathsun, a village in Tral area of Pulwama district. He had left his home to free his motherland, but unaware the fact that death was waiting for him in Afghanistan.

After his preliminary guidance in Azad Kashmir, Hizbul Mujahideen, his organisation sent him, along with a group of ten members to Afghanistan and more accurately to Albader-I. "It took us just one hour to reach from Miranshah to Khost", said one of the Jameel's colleagues, where the Albader training camp is located.

They were not the only Kashmiri youths to fell prey to the mines or rockets shelling in Afghanistan. In fact over 150 Kashmiri militants have been killed in Afghanistan during the last 6 years.

According to mujahideen sources here most of them were killed during fighting between Afghan groups.

Most of the Kashmiris killed in Afghanistan belonged to *Hizbul Mujahideen*, the powerful Kashmiri militant organisation patronised by *Jamaat-i-Islami*. During and after their training, the HM members did participate in the war fronts, shoulder to shoulder with the *Hizb-e Islami* forces.

Several organisations including *Hizbul Mujahideen* and *Harakatul Mujahideen*, now turned into *Harakatul Ansar* send youngsters to Afghanistan for training courses.

"Till recently", the mujahideen forces said, "some Kashmiris were martyred as they fought on the part of Hekmatyar against the Rabbani forces."

***The Frontier Post**, August 10,1995*

Afghan *jehad* haunt the Arab world

Dubai: The arrests of four Saudis accused of bombing a national guard center shows how Saudi Arabia's support for the Afghan Jihad has come back to haunt it, diplomats and observers said yesterday.

Three of the four said that they had received military training in Afghanistan when they appeared on state television on Monday to confess to the November car bombing which killed five Americans and two Indians last November.

The Afghan veterans are "a potential threat for the Saudis", a Gulf-based Arab diplomat said on condition he not be named.

Many of the Islamic revivalists who carried out anti government attacks in Egypt and Algeria had also trained in Afghanistan. Arab financial and other support for the Afghans veterans "has backfired," the diplomat said.

Saudi Arabia, encouraged by the United States, openly financed the mujahideen who fought against the Soviet army until it pulled out of Afghanistan in 1988. Jane's Intelligence Review, which is based in London, said more than 10000 Arab veterans of the Afghanistan war were still active worldwide, half of them Saudis.

***The News**, April, 24,1996*



An Afghan Jamaat-e-Islami Pakistan activist and markman targeting a policeman by his catapult in Islamabad during the JIP's protest rally against government.

Afghan fundamentalists and global narco-smuggling

It is an open secret that almost all Afghan fundamentalist parties, right from the very beginning, have been involved in smuggling and drug-trafficking. During the times when our people are suffering from starvation and horrible miseries, the fundamentalists are busy establishing their so-called trade companies to launder and invest their ill-gained narco-dollars. According to press reports, Afghanistan is one of the largest producers of heroin and opium in the world. Mobile laboratories have been installed by the jehadi parties and Taliban transport their finished products all over Europe through Central Asia. It should be noticed that the western powers cannot be exonerated of playing their part in this narco-game. They have made a great contribution in this dirty business during the Afghan anti-Soviet resistance war by providing the fundamentalists millions of dollars and heaps of arms.

We firmly believe that unless the masters of these Afghan criminals stop their financial and military support to their blue-eyed boys, Afghanistan will remain on the top of the list of drug producing and trafficking countries for many years to come.

Taliban: The "champions of Islam" in smuggling

This Custom source, highly placed in the department, has another astounding and shocking revelation of local Custom authorities connection with Taliban in smuggling and its passage to safe destination.

According to the source besides smuggling of electronic goods, vehicles, heavy arms, stock piling of arms and ammunition by Taliban in Balochistan and other parts of Pakistan cannot be ruled out. The smuggling of ordinary items including vehicles etc. are unprecedented and have been flooding Quetta and other Pakistani city markets. The local markets have been dried up of foodstuffs, specially wheat, tea, rice, etc. These markets are full of items brought from Iran and Afghanistan i.e. fruits, vegetables, gasoline, electronic goods etc.

Ahmad Rashid a senior journalist known to be an expert on Balochistan and Afghanistan in his recent press report is more worried about political framework besides economic devastation being created by the mishandling of the Taliban affair by Pakistan authorities. He says "Taliban have with them tanks, armored vehicles, deadly Stalin "organ" trucks mounted multi-barrel rocket launchers." On food smuggling he says "General Masood has successfully paid off the notoriously corrupt Afghan commanders to keep the road from Jalalabad to Sorobi open to food traffic." "Karachi is receiving guns, training and even sanctuary in Afghanistan. The long-term danger to Pakistan economy he says, is perhaps even more disturbing. Taliban victory in Herat has opened up the road for Pakistani and Afghan smugglers to carry goods from Afghanistan, Iran and Central Asia.

The Taliban have set up an office in Dubai which directly handles flights of all kinds of goods to Qandahar Airport from where these items are resmuggled into Pakistan via Chaman, Quetta after paying off to Taliban, they provide the smugglers security along the entire route from Herat to Chaman. Apart from the heroin trade, the customs duty are the main sources of income for the Taliban and other warlords such as Dostum.

.... **THE MUSLIM,** *November 7,1995*

Taliban promote opium poppy cultivation

At time, beating is used to force prisoners to pay a fine. In early 1996, such prisoners included officials who had attempted to curb drug trafficking in areas not previously controlled by the Taliban. After the Taliban took over these territories, they reportedly legalised opium cultivation. Opium farmers reportedly gave to the Taliban names of the officials of the department to prevent drug smuggling who had confiscated their crop. These officials were arrested and subjected to beatings until they agreed to pay fines to the aggrieved opium farmers.

AI, November 1996

Afghan fundamentalists and global narco-smuggling

Taliban Mafia and the "law of necessity"

It is said that one source of their wealth with which they buy their armaments is trading in heroin. They seem to have invoked the "law of necessity" and given it the sanctity of Islamic approval. No amount of sophistry will turn such an ignoble deed into a righteous one. Drug trading is infinitely worse than dealing in alcohol. If a heinous thing like heroin had been known in the early days of Islam it would most certainly have been prohibited as much as alcohol is.

If the law of necessity enables the Taliban to trade in drugs then the same law of necessity must permit them to smuggle whisky and wine from Europe where at present it is being alleged by the Germans that they are dumping heroin. It requires no proving that if wrong means are used to attain right ends, the ends in themselves change and become wrong.

***The News**, September 1996*

Rampage of national riches by *jehadi* Mafia

Volumes of charges have been leveled at the Rabbani government amidst a firestorm of criticism from indigenous as well as expatriate Afghans. Those charges include: profiteering, embezzlement of state funds, illegal gem sales from the Afghan embassy in London, and the conversion of counterfeit Afghan currency printed in Russia to US dollars and deposited in a Jamaiat bank account in Qatar, U.A.E., amounting to several millions of dollars. Other abuses by government officials, most notably, the former defense minister, Ahmad Shah Masoud, his brothers, Wali and Zia. Zia, also happens to be the son-in-law of President Rabbani. It was Zia, who was apprehended by customs officials in Qatar with the contraband, US currency, and who presented officials with letters of introduction from the government of Afghanistan. Ahmad Shahs's gem business is legendary, by using the embassy in London for lapis lazuli and high quality emeralds. Masud's gems have been used for personal gain as well as influence peddling. Former ISI chief, Hamid Gul, received a large emerald during 1991, from the enigmatic Masud. Moreover, President Rabbani's wife was reported to have transported millions of dollars in cash recently to a destination in Canada.

Diplomat, *April 1994*

Non-Afghan drug-barons and Afghan passports

Several non-Afghan nationals have succeeded in obtaining Afghan passports from the Afghan Consulate General in Peshawar, official Afghan sources confirmed. It is suspected that terrorists, drug-barons and criminals have obtained the passports, obviously, to hide and dodge the authorities. A highly-placed source said that the Afghan foreign ministry in Kabul had information that a diplomat in its mission in Peshawar had sold several passports to non-Afghan persons. The Afghan foreign ministry has further information that one of its Karachi-based diplomats issued certificates to countless ineligible businessmen to open letters of credit for the Afghan transit trade.

***The Frontier Post**, April 29, 1995*

Hekmatyar's smuggler commanders

Peshawar, Aug 18: an Afghan commander, belonging to Hezb-e-Islami (Hekmatyar Group) is said to be involved in the smuggling of arms besides supplying sophisticated weapons to a particular sectarian group down the country.

According to well-informed sources the Hezb commander, Daud, smuggled arms from Ali Khel Fort, Spina Shaga near Pak-Afghan border. Ali Khel Fort is a place where the Hezb had set up an arms depot during Afghan war. Almost all the Afghan factions established their depot in Spina Shaga during the war.

It is worth mentioning that some Afghan commanders and local traffickers are involved in arms and drug trafficking and few days ago the Frontier Corps had also seized a huge quantity of charges in Kurram Agency.

THE MUSLIM, *August 17, 1996*



1994, An opium poppy field near Jalalabad.

AI photo

Enemies of the Afghan heritage

Afghanistan's National Museum, established in the 1920s and acknowledged as one of the world's most opulent depositories, had also become a victim of fighting among the fundamentalists. After the invasion of Kabul in 1992 the corrupt and uncivilized warriors plundered the whole museum and turned its building into ashes. Many historical relics were destroyed and the precious collections of the museum lay in ruins.



Afghanistan's National Museum is laid in ruins after its pillage and destruction by vandal fundamentalists.

Pak government buying stolen antiques

Islamabad, Aug. 6: In what was described by most experts as a surprise decision, the Cabinet approved last month a supplementary grant of Rs 30 million to procure antiques, metal and glassware, manuscripts and paintings available in the local market or in private hands. Following the Cabinet directive, the Finance Division agreed last week to provide the huge amount for procurement from local market of artifacts/ manuscripts/arts pieces of Afghanistan or Central Asian origin for display in National Museum in Islamabad.

The only thing which happened recently was unconfirmed reports that a large number of high value pieces of carved ivory stolen from the Afghan National Museum in Kabul have been brought to Peshawar and were offered for sale to a very few, highly connected persons. It is understood that some of the Afghan ivory pieces have already been sold to individuals and smuggled out of Pakistan but more than one hundred pieces are still reported to be available with a man in Peshawar who according to one expert was operating under an assumed name.

The Afghan treasure of carved ivory was discovered at village Begram, some 40 miles north-east of Kabul and dates back to 2nd century AD. They come from a period when the Kushan Empire covered a vast area from northern India up to the upper regions of Central Asia. Artifacts from this period, therefore, can be classified as of Central Asian Afghan origin.

The decision of the Cabinet came as a surprise for people who are knowledgeable about the international law on sale/purchase of archeological pieces belonging to the cultural heritage of another nation. They advise that care must be taken while selecting items for purchase from the supplementary grant for display at Pakistan National Museum because if even one item stolen from Kabul museum is procured by the Government of Pakistan, it would amount to a clear violation of the 1972 UN convention of Protection of National Heritage of the member states. Pakistan is a signatory to the Convention.

THE MUSLIM
August 7, 1995

The pillage of Kabul Museum

Following is excerpts from a write-up on the pillage of Kabul Museum published in "Weekend Post" (October 21,1994). The only point we would like to add is that the treacherous *jehadi* fundamentalists had only plundered and sold Kabul museum, but now their brethren Taliban are playing with the dignity and pride of our people. The *jehadi* and the Taliban type of fundamentalists have put Afghans to shame in front of the world.

Shifted to the idyllic settings of Darul Aman in 1931, Afghanistan's national museum is one of the richest cultural repositories in the world, housing the most elegant antiquities from Alexandria, Ashokan, Akhamansheed, Greek, Buddhist, Kanishkan, Zoroastrian and Muslim periods. But, unfortunately, the marathon gory drama of death and destruction in Kabul has brought in its wake such a situation that helped an international Mafia comprising hogs from a number of countries -- notably Russia, Japan, India, Pakistan, UK, France and Germany-- a great deal in smuggling most of the excellent artifacts out of Afghanistan.

The future Afghan generations will never curse their forefathers for plundering their rich civilization and splendid heritage, because their ancestors are among those old and young men and women who fell victims to the madness of the *jehadi* and Taliban fundamentalists.

Of course, they will forcefully curse and hate a handful of hired fundamentalists who not only destroyed and looted their heritage but also abused the generation of their forefathers and raped their aged mothers.

Rumors have it that the sword of legendary Ahmad Shah Abdali Baba, stolen from Kabul Museum, was sold for a song in Peshawar: Rs.300 only, a price that should put the entire Pakhtun nation to shame. As it changed hands, the sword was sold to a cagey European businessman for six million rupees.

Likewise, in the not-so-distant past, an ignoramus group of mujahideen, led by Ahmad Shah Masood, was accused of purloining most of the contents of the museum -- some of them 30,000 to 50,000 years old.

....

The mujahideen, who are no connoisseurs of arts, threw overboard the centuries-old golden principles of the 'Ormazd' and 'Ahriman' when, in 1988 invaluable vases belonging to the Zoroastrian period were pilfered from Kabul museum. A skint group of refugees sold them in Hayatabad at dirt-cheap prices.

....

The trigger-happy mujahideen, after having ruined their present, and imperiled their future, are now bent upon wreaking havoc with their past glories, an act that is tantamount to cultural suicide.

....

The future Afghan generation are bound to curse their forefathers for selling their rich civilization and, thus, distorting their otherwise splendid history.

....

But the present-day horror story of Kabul will make Yutozi turn in his grave.

....

The pistol of Amir Abdur Rehman and the sword of Wazir Akbar Khan, whose heroic role in the 1839 war against the British invaders, is remembered to date in Afghan folklores, are conspicuously missing from the museum.

....

Worth while among the holdings at Kabul Museum from the various periods Afghanistan witnessed were: Flake-blade industry (30,000 to 50,000 years old), a fragment of human skull with Neanderthal features (Stone age), 1800 rare artifacts from the Kushan period, a life-size statue of Kushan ruler Kanishka (128 A.D.), bronze, plaster, matrixes and glass collection (Alexandria), 17 gold and silver vessels (2500 B.C.), 21,000 gold ornaments (1st Century B.C.), paintings of Hindu and Buddhist econography, unique marble sculptures (6th Century A.D.), 5000 incomparable marble reliefs, bronzes, frescoes and ceramics of the Ghaznavids, ethnographic collection of 20 matchless wooden effigies from Nooristan (1895-96), Kanishkan coins with depiction of gods and goddesses, schist and limestone relief sculptures, 350 Buddhist clay-molded and stucco art pieces, Gupta art objects (7th Century) and coin

>

collection, numbering almost 31,000 pieces (8th Century to modern times), besides large statues of war heroes, rulers and animals -- such as horses, cows, goats, elephants and lions.

It is an open secret that a 6th Century A.D. statue was sold to a farmer of Dir for Rs.700 by an Afghan refugee. The farmer struck a profitable bargain with a foreigner and pocketed a hefty sum of 7.5 million rupees from the sale of the statue. Similarly, a federal minister was recently accused of trading in statues by a religious leader belonging to Swabi (NWFP). It is relevant to note that artifacts of the said minister were seized at the Peshawar airport which were to be smuggled abroad through a third party.

WEEKEND POST, *October 21,1994*



Najibullah Popal deputy chief of Kabul Museum over the destroyed treasures

UNESCO calls on dealers to respect Afghan art heritage

PARIS (AFP) - UNESCO director general Federico Mayor called Wednesday on art dealers and collectors to refrain from acquiring objects that formed part of Afghanistan's cultural heritage but were looted from Kabul's central museum last November.

The international art market has recently begun trading in articles from Afghanistan that have found their way to the west after a rocket attack on the museum enabled looters to make off with many valuable items.

Officials of the UN Educational Scientific and Cultural Organisation warned that "looters stripped the national museum in Kabul, the Jalalabad museum was destroyed and several art objects were sold in the west." The loss to the Asian country's heritage was "massive", they said in a statement.

Mayor called on dealers and collectors to "respect scrupulously the interests of the Afghan people by refraining from acquiring objects that might have been stolen from them."

The Frontier Post, *April 1,1994*

Where is the selling market of the Kabul museum's antiques?

CIA, Peshawar, in a big haul early on Thursday recovered antiques in three different raids at gold market, Koochi Bazar and Gulbahar. The relics were allegedly stolen from the Kabul museum some time back.

Two persons were arrested who according to police are the agents of a gang operating in Peshawar, US and other countries had smuggled antiques which has allegedly been stolen from Kabul museum some time back. The smugglers had also concealed heroin powder in the antiques.

During the raid, the officials recovered two mounds of 'topaz' worth lakhs of rupees, 34 statues worth millions of rupees in the international market, 16 swords of Mughal era, 23 other swords, five epitops and other antiques.

Experts in the local market while talking to The Frontier Post said that the seized antiques are worth millions of dollars in the international market. While in the local market price is estimated at millions of rupees. They said that for the past six months, there were reports that costly antiques stolen from Kabul museum were in the local market.

William reeve, BBC correspondent in Kabul in his recent interview at BBC television said that the relices stolen from the Kabul museum had been sold in Peshawar. He also surveyed gold market in Peshawar and found the agents who deal in the business.

The Frontier Post, *August 17,1996*



"Looting of the museum is high treason"

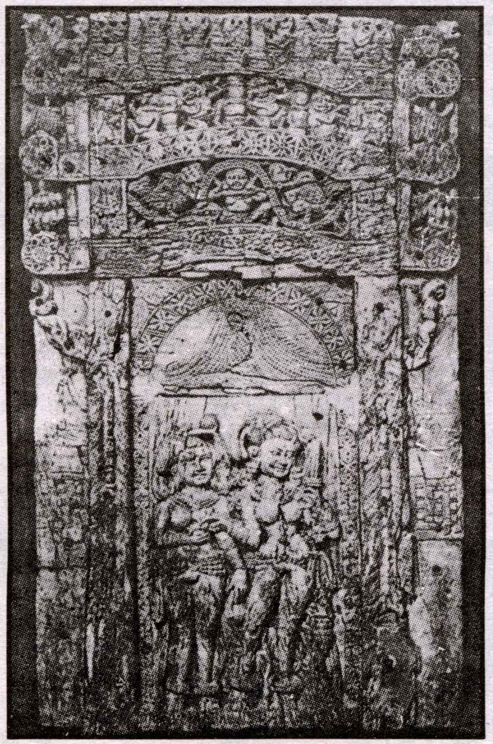
Nancy Hatch Dupree in one of her detailed lecture on "Preserving Afghan Heritage" which was delivered at the German Embassy Auditorium on April 25, 1995 said:

"....

The breakdown of law and order which has plagued Kabul ever since the arrival of fractious mujahideen groups in April 1992 has spelled disaster for the museum.

....

In the case of the Kabul Museum, however, all indications suggest that the looting was carried out with careful consideration; it was probably not plundered wantonly by illiterate Mujahideen.



An Ivory panel 2nd-3rd century AD, is part of a treasure of carved ivory discovered about a century back from Bagram, 40 miles north-east of Kabul. The treasure was on display in the Bagram room of the Afghan National Museum which was plundered after April 1992 by jehadi *fundamentalists.*

....

It is important that all Afghans should know of and appreciate the abundance of their heritage. Afghans should be proud of their past accomplishments, and consider this past a part of their own self-esteem. Sadly, too few are aware of their heritage. Worse there are those who would despoil it.

....

The only pieces reliably certified as genuine were ten Bagram ivories which were seen in Islamabad in April 1994. The asking price was 200,000 British pounds. I have recently been informed that these have now left Pakistan and the price has risen to 400,000 pounds.

....

This brings up the question of the morality of so grandly rewarding someone who has stolen the heritage of his own nation. As Mr. Mousouris has stated, 'Looting of the museum is high treason because it is an act against the dignity, the cohesion, and the glory of the nation'."

Mr. Mousouris and other people may express such views because they are not aware of the real nature of these Afghan criminals and traitors.

We do not expect these *jehadi* fighting brigades, who have killed thousands of innocent people and who rape even 70-year old Afghan mothers, to have any vision of preserving our heritage and glory.

200,000 victims of mine and the Afghan fundamentalists

Alas, in a land where 10 million anti-personnel mines infested and as a result at least 200,000 civilians have died and 400,000 have been disabled just in mine incidents, what have the blood-thirsty fundamentalists been doing?

They have been committing strange, totally inhuman and unimaginable crimes against our people. Their assaults did not spare even 70-year old mothers; abducting young girls and boys and then sexually abusing them is a matter of habit. Destroying hospitals and educational institutions, and stopping the women who lost their sole bread-winners in *jehadi* clashes from earning their livelihood are also some of their favourite pastimes.

As a result of bloody power-tussle among the fundamentalists, thousands have been killed and buried under the debris of their devastated houses; thousands forced to prostitution and.... But the fundamentalists not only pay any attention to the problems they have created, and the crimes they perpetrate, instead, they are adding new wounds everyday to our already bleeding hearts!



Victims of mine incidents

200,000 Afghans died in mine incidents

Karachi (PPI) - About 200,000 civilians have died and 400,000 have been disabled in mine incidents in Afghanistan.

Approximately 6000 more will lose their lives or limbs every year in the war-battered country due to mine incidents, says a report issued by the United Nations Office for Coordination of Humanitarian Assistance to Afghanistan-mine clearance programme (UNOCHA).

During the 14 year war, millions of mines were used by all sides involved in the conflict. The vast majority of mine victims are local residents and returning refugees.

A major reason why refugees, still living in Pakistan choose not to return to their home villages, is the presence of mines. In April 1992, when the mass return of refugees started, the number of mine injuries admitted to International Committee of Red Cross (ICRC) hospitals in Kabul, Peshawar and Quetta, surged up to 10 fold.

The Frontier Post, *March 20,1994*

Afghans living with 10m mines, UN official

Islamabad: Lt Col Ian Mansfield, the Programme Manager Demining UNOCHA, stunned the audience here at a function when he said that Afghanistan is infested with 10 million anti-personnel mines ready to explode the moment anyone stepped on them.

He told the audience that in order to clean the priority area in Afghanistan, a period of 3 to 5 years was required. But, he said that the process of demining is very expensive and slow and required a lot of funds to clear the area.

During the course of lecture, he said Kabul, which has been destroyed by the mujahideen, had few, if any, mines but the unexploded rockets and bombs were the main problems over there.

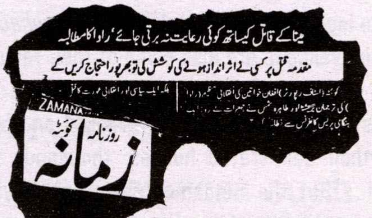
The News, *February 8,1996*

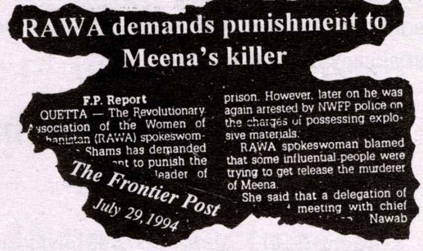
Justice should be done

The murderers of Meena, founding leader of RAWA, and her two aides are languishing in prison in Pakistan. Some fundamentalist groups like Hekmatyar's *Hezb-i-Islami*, with the collaboration of certain Pakistani circles, are trying their utmost to have them released. RAWA, hoping against all odds that justice will prevail, has been endeavouring to the utmost of its ability to ensure that the hired killers do not get away with their heinous crime.

The under-mentioned outstanding Pakistani lawyers and intellectuals responded positively to a request from RAWA to appeal to the Government of Baluchistan to firmly stand for upholding law regarding the trial of Meena's murderers:

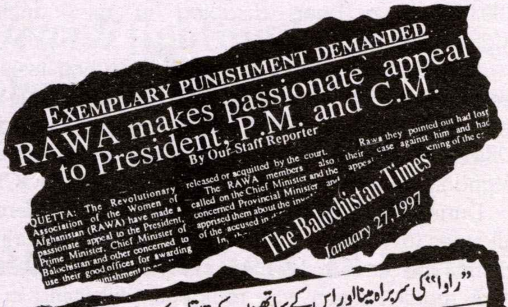
Abdul Rashid Qureshi (Advocate)
Abid Hassan Minto (President Pakistan Workers Party)
Afzal Wahala (Advocate)
Aitzaz Hassan (former Interior and Law Minister)
Amtyaz Shah (PNP)
Anwar Ali (Advocate)
Aorang Zaib
Asghar Khadam (Advocate)
B. A. Chaudhary (Advocate)
Dr.Ghulam Hussain (former Gen. Secretary PPP and Federal Minister)
Dr. Farooq Hassan (Advocate)
Farukh Sohail Goindi (President PPP Punjab, Cultural Wing)
Iqbal Cheema (Advocate)
Irfan Saeed
Liaqat Hussain (Gen Secretary PPP)
M. Hussain Malik
M. Sohail (Advocate)
Mushtaq Raj (Advocate)
Qureshi Mohammad Hafeez
Rafiq Ahmad Shiekh (Secretary General PPP)
Raja Mehmood Akhtar (former President Lahore High Court Bar)
Raja Abdul Rahman (Advocate)
S.M. Masoud (former Law Minister)
Sardar Shaukat Ali (Advocate)
Sebteen Akhtar Bukhari (Advocate)
Shahid Mahmood Bhatti (Senior Vice President PLF)
Shiekh Mohammad Rashid (Senior Vice Chairman PPP)
Talat Yaqoob (President PPP Lahore, Women Wing)


مینا کے قاتل کیساتھ کوئی رعایت نہ برتی جائے، راوا کا مطالبہ
مقدمہ قتل پر کسی نے اثر انداز ہونے کی کوشش کی تو بھرپور احتجاج کریں گے
ZAMANA
روزنامہ زمانہ کوئٹہ


RAWA demands punishment to Meena's killer

F.P. Report
QUETTA — The Revolutionary Association of the Women of ...hanistan (RAWA) spokeswom... Shams has demanded ...nt to punish the ... leader of ...
prison. However, later on he was again arrested by NWFP police on the charges of possessing explosive materials.
RAWA spokeswoman blamed that some influential people were trying to get release the murderer of Meena.
She said that a delegation of ... meeting with chief ... Nawab

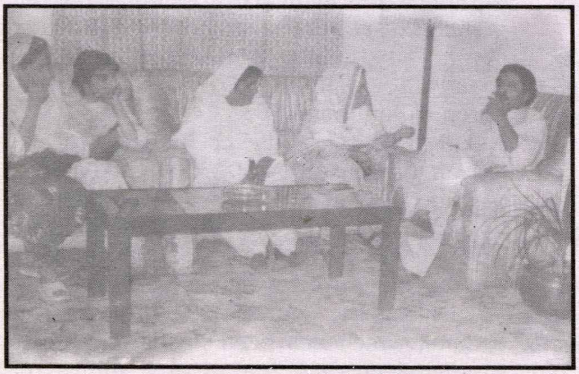
The Frontier Post
July 29, 1994


EXEMPLARY PUNISHMENT DEMANDED
RAWA makes passionate appeal to President, P.M. and C.M.
By Our Staff Reporter

QUETTA: The Revolutionary Association of the Women of Afghanistan (RAWA) have made a passionate appeal to the President, Prime Minister, Chief Minister of Balochistan and other concerned to use their good offices for awarding ...unishment to ...
released or acquitted by the court.
The RAWA members also called on the Chief Minister and the concerned Provincial Minister and apprised them about the inv... of the accused in ...
In ...
Rawa they pointed out had lost their case against him and had appeal... ...ening of the c...

The Balochistan Times
January 27, 1997


”راوا“ کی سربراہ مینا اور اس کے ساتھیوں کے قاتلوں کو عمر قید و جرمانے کی سزا
کشور کمال اور اس کے ساتھیوں کو 1987ء میں قتل کرنے کے بعد ملزمان بھارت فرار ہو گئے تھے
Daily MASHRIQ Peshawar
مشرق



RAWA activists talking with Baluchistan Chief Minister Zulfaqar Ali Magasi about the assassination case of Meena. July 28, 1994, Quetta.



MEENA was born in 1957 in Kabul. during her school days, the students in Kabul and other Afghan cities were deeply engaged in social activism and raising mass movements. She left the university to devote herself as a social activist to organize and educate the women. In her pursuit of her cause of gaining the right of freedom of expression and conducting political activities, Meena laid the foundation of RAWA in 1977. The organization was meant to give voice to the deprived and silent women of Afghanistan. She started a campaign against the Russian forces and their puppet regime in 1979 and organized numerous processions and meetings in schools, colleges and Kabul University to mobilize public opinion.

Another great service rendered by her for the Afghan women is the launching of a bilingual magazine, *Payam-e-Zan* (The Message of Woman) in 1980. Through this magazine RAWA has been projecting the cause of the Afghan women boldly and effectively. *Payam-e-Zan* has constantly exposed the criminal nature of fundamentalist groups.

Meena also established Watan Schools for refugee children, a hospital and handicraft centers for refugee women in Pakistan to support Afghan women financially.

In the end of 1981, Meena represented the Afghan resistance movement in the Congress of French Socialist Party by the invitation of the French government. The Soviet delegation at the Congress, headed by Boris Ponamaryev, left the hall in embarrassment as the participants cheered when Meena started waving a victory sign. Besides France, she also visited several other European countries and met their prominent personalities. Her active social work and effective advocacy against the views of the fundamentalists and the puppet regime provoked the wrath of the Russians and fundamentalist forces alike and she was assassinated by KGB agents and their fundamentalist accomplices in Quetta, Pakistan, on February 4, 1987.

I'LL NEVER RETURN

I'm the woman who has awoken
I've arisen and become a tempest through the ashes of my burnt children
I've arisen from the rivulets of my brother's blood
My nation's wrath has empowered me
My ruined and burnt villages replete me with hatred against the enemy
O' compatriot, no longer regard me weak and incapable,

My voice has mingled with thousands of arisen women
My fists are clenched with fists of thousands compatriots
To break together all these sufferings all these fetters of slavery.

I'm the woman who has awoken,
I've found my path and will never return.

Translation of a part of a poem by Meena published in "Payam-e-Zan" No. 1, 1981

ALL THE FUNDAMENTALISTS ARE BLUE-EYED BOYS OF THEIR FOREIGN MASTERS

India gives Rabbani mobile radio station

ISLAMABAD, Dec.24: Media reports from Afghanistan have revealed that a powerful mobile radio station, "Badakhshan Radio" has started functioning at Takhar with the assistance of India. India has also helped Masud-Rabbani nexus in installing a powerful booster at Badakhshan to extend the range of the radio for wider coverage. The radio is transmitting anti-Taliban programmes in Pushto, Persian and other local languages, the reports added. It is also been learnt that India continues to bring military supplies, spare parts for the aircraft and tanks of anti-Taliban forces. Besides, direct arms supplies from Delhi, it has also been arranging arms and ammunition for Masud's forces from other countries. The forced-landing of the cargo plane by Taliban at Kandahar air base, belonging to Russia, having Indian make communication on board, has confirmed the Indian involvement in supplying arms and ammunition to the anti-Taliban forces. It has also been revealed that India has supplied night-fighting capabilities, cluster bombs, medical facilities and Pakistani and Afghani currency to the Masud, Dostum and Rabbani coalition.

THE MUSLIM, *December 25,1996*

protégés' patrons

At one end of the spectrum, there are countries who support the recently formed Defense Council which comprises anti-Taliban forces. These are believed to include Iran, Central Asian states, as well as Russia and India. At the other end are countries which support the Taliban. These are believed to include the United States, Saudi Arabia, and Pakistan.

As always, the main looser of foreign backed wars in Afghanistan have been the civilian population who have had no active part in the hostilities. They have been their homes destroyed, their sons and daughters killed, their future ruined and their dignity as human beings taken away from them.

AI, November 18,1996

India meddling in Afghanistan

Indians have extended help and assistance to Afghanistan in multi-dimensional fields. In military sphere, the Indians are helping the Kabul regime in following manner:

Training of Afghan Intelligence Agency (RAW) personnel at New Delhi. Indians have also provided Rs 10 million to General Fahim of RAW for the establishment of Afghan Intelligence Agency.

- Training of 28 Afghan pilots in India.
- Two SU-7 were sent to India for overhaul and installation of pod for carrying Nepalm bombs.

On Nov.12 and 13 night two cargo flights brought two serviceable aircraft engines and other spares from India.

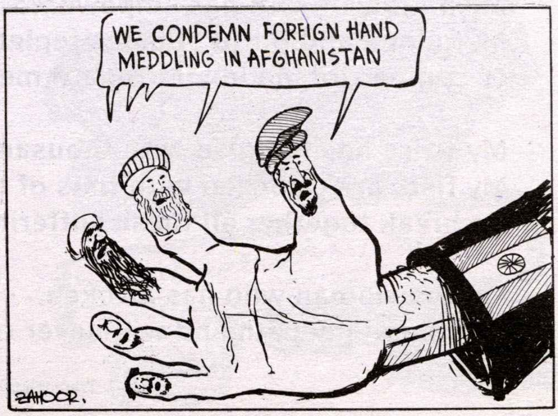
- Provision of assistance in making scud system operational.
- On Nov.23,1995, 11 Indians reportedly arrived at Bagram.

This raises the strength of the Indian personnel to 60 (including 9 pilots). There are confirmed reports of Indian pilots (Kirat Singh and Karmat Singh), aeronautical engineers (Gorbechan Singh, Misri Ram and Rameesh Kumar).

Indians also delivered advanced radar to the Afghan defence minister during first quarter of 1995 which has been installed close to the TV booster in Kabul.

- Supplies of large quantity of ammunition boxes at Bagram with Indian marking have been confirmed.

THE MUSLIM, *March 23,1996*



ALL THE FUNDAMENTALISTS ARE BLUE-EYED BOYS OF THEIR FOREIGN MASTERS

Brain child of ISI

Time Magazine in its 4 November 1996 issue published interviews with some of the 26 Pakistanis who had been captured around 13 October 1996 while fighting against forces of Ahmad Shah Masood near the Salang Pass. The captured soldiers said they had been recruited and paid by Pakistan's Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI) to fight alongside the Taliban. One of the prisoners said his Islamic paramilitary unit in Kulty Chawni in Pakistan's Punjab province was under the control of the ISI. His mission, which he said included 1,000 other Pakistani fighters, entered Afghanistan in the month preceding the Taliban capture of Kabul on 27 September 1996.

AI, November 18, 1996

Mercenaries of Iran

Shi'a Muslims in Afghanistan who opposed the government in Kabul turned to Iran, where they organized a number of groupings. They also established bases in Shi'a-dominated areas inside Afghanistan with Iranian support and military assistance. An alliance of eight Shi'a Mujahideen groups formed in Iran claimed to represent the Shi'a minority in Afghanistan. Later, they all merged into *Hezb-e-Wahdat* Islami, the Party of Islamic Unity, which then split into two factions: *Hezb-e-Wahdat*, at first led by Abdul Ali Mazari and later by Karim Khalili; and *Harekat-e-Inqilab-e-Islami*, Movement for Islamic Revolution, led by Sheikh Asef Mohseni.

AI, September 11,1995

The Saudi Arabia stigma

In Afghanistan, because of the war, Pakistan and Saudi Arabia, on the one side, and Iran, on the other side, competed for domination even by military means.

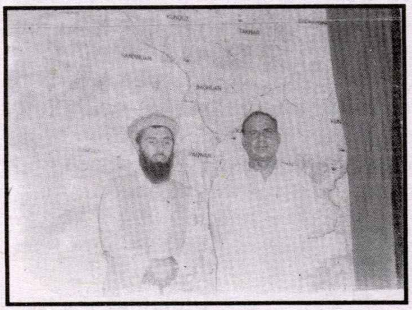
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However, Saudi Arabia and Pakistan made earnest efforts to deny Masud and Iran such a success. It is believed that Hekmatyar's shelling of Kabul during the summer of 1992 was done after consultation with Pakistan. It is also reported that in the past two years, Saudi Arabia has spent about two billion dollars in Afghanistan. Mr. Hekmatyar is the major beneficiary of Saudi largess.

Similarly, in addition to helping Hekmatyar and Sayyaf, Saudi Arabia has been providing financial assistance to Dostam and Rabbani too. And, in the past year, Hekmatyar has moved closer to Iran. Thus, while no Afghan group or regional power has had a lasting victory, regional rivalry, which intensified dramatically after the disintegration of the Soviet Union, has been fueling the civil war in Afghanistan.

At least one report indicates that the Saudi government has given the Kabul regime more than $193 million in 1993 alone, a sum that, given Afghanistan's pervasive poverty, can buy an enormous amount of influence.

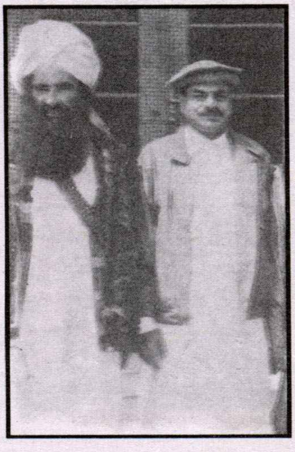
Diplomat, *February, 1994*



Hekmatyar with god-father Brigadier Yousaf



Sayyaf with god-father Gen. Hamid Gul



Commander Jalaluddin Haqqani with god-father Gen. Hamid Gul

ALL THE FUNDAMENTALISTS ARE BLUE-EYED BOYS OF THEIR FOREIGN MASTERS

US against the rest in stance towards Taliban

LONDON: The continued success of the Islamic fundamentalist Taliban in Afghanisan has brought about a bizarre re-run of the 19th century "Great game", when Britain and Russia engaged in cloak-and-dagger operations to establish influence in Afghanistan and central Asia in the face of the Russian threat to invade the British Raj in India. But in the new game, Russia has quietly asked Britain for help, and the two former imperial adversaries find themselves arrayed with France, Iran and other former Soviet republics against the United States.

However, alone among the great powers, the United States has been supporting the Taliban - because of its historic antipathy towards both Russia and Iran. Diplomatic sources said they found the US attitude rather naive, but there was no doubt of its direction. That has brought about the unwelcome prospect of British and French weaponry and advisers on Masood's side clashing with US advisers and material on Taliban's.

Afghanistan is already awash with weapons, mostly inherited from the ten-year Soviet war. However, Taliban have also acquired US weapons via Pakistan.

The News, January 11,1997



Amir Jamaat-i-Islami *Pakistan, Qazi Hussain Ahmed being greeted at Kabul's presidential palace by Rabbani, Sayyaf, Dr.Abdul Rehman and...*

The lion's share

On CIA's aid to the Afghan *jehadi* parties Brig. M. Yousaf writes:

"In 1987 the broad percentages allocated to the Parties were Hekmatyar 18-20 per cent, Rabbani 18-19 per cent, Sayaf 17-18 per cent, Khalis 13-15 per cent, Nabi 13-15 per cent, Gailani 10-11 per cent, and Mujaddadi trailing with 3-5 percent. Certainly the Fundamentalists came out on top with 67-73 per cent."

***The Bear Trap**, Afghanistan's untold story*, page 105

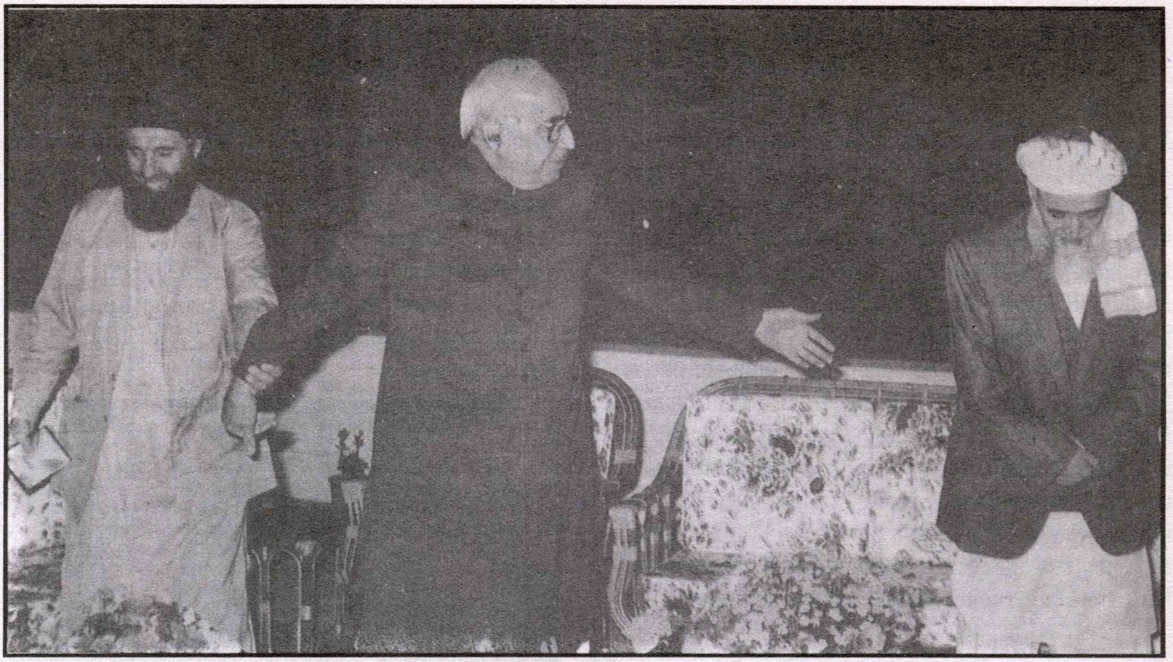
Zia's made 'leaders'

Rep. Don Ritter (R-Penn.), a strong supporter of helping the Afghans expel the Soviet aggressors, offered a scathing indictment of Islamabad's promotion of the Peshawar Seven.

"We should keep in mind that the seven political leaders of the Peshawar based parties were not in any way chosen by the Afghan people but by President Zia-ul-Haq. Some of the moderate parties have a legitimate following among the Afghan, people, whose brand of Islam has never been marked by fanaticism. The fundamentalist parties, on the other hand, were creations of Pakistan and in one case Saudi Arabia. Zia and his friends in the ISI have sought to put Hekmatyar in power...."

The extent of Pakistani domination was extraordinary. Selig Harrison and Barnett Rubin, prominent experts on Southwest Asia, contend that representatives of the exiled Afghan king, Mohammed Zahir (Zahir Shah), repeatedly tried to reach Afghan refugees and resistance fighters but were denied access by Pakistan. Even more revealing, when Washington first expressed and interest in supporting the mujaheddin, the Pakistani government selected the Afghan "leaders" who would meet with the American representatives.

Diplomat, Feb.1994



Hekmatyar and Rabbani with god-father

We have maintained again and again that fundamentalists of all brands show the same cloven hoof. Yesterday these two infamous terrorists were ripping each others' throat, but then they "understood" each other so well that they agreed to jointly form a "government". Will they have the 'decency' not to devour each other again tomorrow?

Differences crop up inanti-Taliban alliance

Hekmatyar, Sayyaf willing to back student militia

According to reports, chiefs of Hezb-i-Islami Gulbuddin Hekmatyar and Ittehad-i-Islami Prof. Abdur Rab Rasool Sayyaf are reluctant to join Dostam-Masood alliance in their bid to retake Kabul. They are also trying to woo former president Burhanuddin Rabbani to join them. The reports said that Rabbani was feeling uneasy with the northern warlord Abdur Rashid Dostam and his former defence minister Ahmed Shah Masood.

The reports said that Hekmatyar and Sayyaf had been consulting each other for making strategy to play an effective role in the present situation.

An informed source while talking to The Frontier Post Friday disclosed that Hekmatyar had established contacts with Taliban. "Hekmatyar sent a message to the Taliban leadership about his willingness to join them", the source added.

According to the source, Hekmatyar and some other former Afghan leaders had serious reservations about Dostam as they believed that he took active part in the war against mujahideen after the installation of a commun... government in Kabul. "He (D... is responsible for th... thousands of Afg...

Reports said ... withdrawn hi... as he was ... ate wi... opp... T...

The Frontier Post
November 30,1996

Iranian leadership on their Afghan disciples

When the Iranian leader Mr. Khamenei categorically states that *"The world does not accept what the Taliban are doing in the name of Islam..."* he conveniently forgets that the world is first and foremost disgusted with all fundamentalism brands, including that of Mr. Khamenei himself and that of the Afghan *jehadi* criminals, the prototypes of the Taliban. When he condescendingly continues *"We don't know even how much they know about Islam"* we can give him the benefit of the doubt as what we do know for sure is that they don't know as much about Islam as do Mr. Khamenei & Co. who, in the name of Islam, have slaughtered tens of thousands of innocent people and who perform the last rites of raping young virgin prisoner girls before having them shot! And when Iranian deputy foreign minister Borujerdi warns: *"No one in the world has the right to make an ugly portrait of this beautiful religion"*, his indignation is understandable as since quite some time, especially during the past four years the *jehadi* and Taliban fundamentalists, have usurped this indisputable 'right' from the Iranian leaders!



Rabbani with god-father. Tehran, December 5,1997

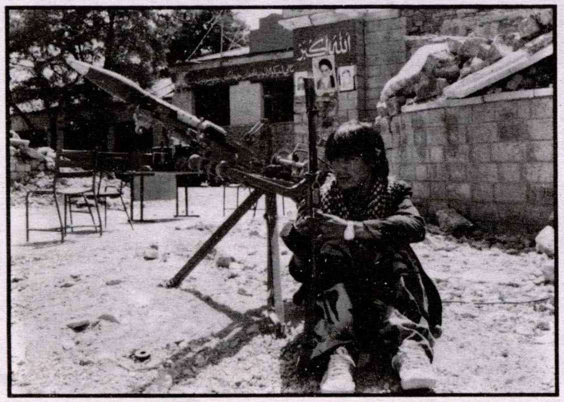
Big brother denounce little brothers

Tehran (AFP) - Iran's spiritual guide Ayatollah Ali Khamenei accused the United States on Monday of supporting the Taliban militia in Afghanistan and denounced the brand of Islam practiced by the religious warriors.

"The world does not accept what the Taliban doing in the name of Islam," Khamenei told a gathering here of imams from around the country. "We don't even know how much they know about Islam."

Khamenei added that "what's happening in Afghanistan and the support of the United States for this group clearly shows that American propaganda about defending human rights and the rights of women is noting but lies."

***The Frontier Post**, October 8, 1996*



An armed-jehadi of the Iran backed Hezb-e-Wahdat

Taliban are damaging Islam's reputation

PESHAWAR - Iran's ambassador to Pakistan, Mohammad Mehdi Akhunzada, Saturday said his country was opposing the Taliban not on political grounds, but because they were damaging the reputation of Islam. Addressing a press conference here, Akhunzada said Taliban's activities in Afghanistan were earning bad name for Islam throughout the world and the militia would soon realize that Iran was friendly to its neighboring country.

***The Frontier Post**, December 10,1996*

But Mr Ambassador must understand that the Afghans are not less averse and doubtful about the Iranian interferences in our country. Iranian fundamentalists are far "stranger" to our people. The Afghans will never forget how the Islamic Republic has been earnestly armed stooges like Rabbani, Khalili and Akbari to the teeth.

The recent visit of Iran by "President" Rabbani is the latest effort of the Iranian regime to enhance its brazen interference in the Afghan affairs which provokes hateful wrath among our people against the Tehran regime.

Iran in its *jehadi* problems

TEHERAN (DPA) - Iran plans to help recons-truction of Afghanistan after the country has achiev-ed peace, President Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani on Thursday told ousted Afghan President, Teheran radio reported.

"Once peace is achieved, Iran will start wide-spread efforts to help Afghanistan in devolopment and recons-truction," Rafsanjani told Burhanuddin Rabbani, who arrived here on Thursday.

Rabbani in return said, 'he hopes peace will soon return to his country'.

A pact is to be signed in Northern Afghanistan within the next few days between members of the anti-Taliban alliance. The deal is believed by political observers to be at the top of the agenda of the talks between Rafsanjani and Rabbani.

The Frontier Post, December 7,1996

Up to 600 soldiers loyal to Ismael Khan were seen by AFP on October 30 arriving by plane from Mashad in Iran in the northern Afghan town on Maimana controlled by northern warlord General Abdul Rashid Dostam-- and going directly to the front.

Dostam is currently allied to the ousted Kabul government who are battl-ing against the Taliban militia north of Kabul and in the north-west of the country.

Airport officials in Maimana con-firmed that the Dostam-owened Antonov 29 tran-sport planes had arrived from Mashad, ferrying Ismael Khan's armed troops who took refuge in Iran when the Taliban seized Herat.

The Frontier Post, *November 12, 1996*

... and the "divine finger"

Iran hails militant black leader

TEHRAN (AFP) - Iran's Chief Justice Ayatollah Moha-mmad Yazdi on Friday described black US Muslim leader Louis Farrakhan as a "divine hand in the land of great Satan." The controver-sial leader of the Nation of Islam "is notheing but a divine hand in the land of the great Satan," the Ayatollah said, using a term Iran has attributed to the United States since its 1979 Islamic revolution. "God inspires such people as Farrakhan and gathers Muslims," he said at the weekly Muslim prayers at Tehran University.

The Frontier Post
Oct.19,1996

If Farrakhan is "a divine hand in the land of the great Satan", Rabbani may well be regarded at least as "a divine finger", if not "a divine hand", in our wasted land.

But when the day of their reckoning comes and the people of America and Afghanistan would punish them for their crimes, what would become of Farrakhan the "divine hand" or Rabbani "the divine finger"? They would simply fizzle out! Had such ridiculous words been uttered by the tongue of any other Muslim, he would have been accused of "blasphemy" and sentenced to death!

Khamenei on his "uncivilized" brothers:

TEHRAN, Jan 29: Leader of the Islamic Revolution of Iran, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, expressed deep regret over the ongoing killings in Afghanistan.

Ayotollah was addressing to the members of the General Assembly of the international Ahlul-Bait Conference both from Iran and 64 other countries. He regretted the blow that the communists failed to deal on the Afghan people was now being stricken on them by the belligent Afghan leaders.



THE MUSLIM
January 30, 1996

Yes, because they are the most ignorant, the most backward, the most cruel, the most medieval-minded and the most corrupt people in the world. In a word, our fundamentalist "leaders" are more reactionary and anti-democracy than you Mr Khamenei!

Pakistani god-fathers on their Afghan disciples

Even Pakistani god-fathers too criticize the "excesses" of their Taliban protégés, but of course, these godfathers are too muddle-headed to realize that the "Islam" concocted by fundamentalists has long ago been disgraced and discarded as a synonym for ignorance, bigotry, terrorism, murder, rape and all the most outrageous atrocities.

Ghafoor Ahmed, the deputy chief of the Jamaat-i-Islami, said the Taliban would "boost" anti-Islamic propaganda in the West unless they abandoned their "repressive" policies.

Since taking Kabul on September 27, the Taliban have issued a stream of edicts resulting from their strict interpretation of *Sharat*.

In Islam and *Shariat*, educating women is compulsory and these measures might be used by Western interests to tarnish the image of Islam," he said.

The "emotional" Taliban orders have "no religious or legal value" in Islam, said the chief of the Jammat Ittehad Ulema party, Maulana Abdul Rauf, urging the militia to behave justly towards both sexes.

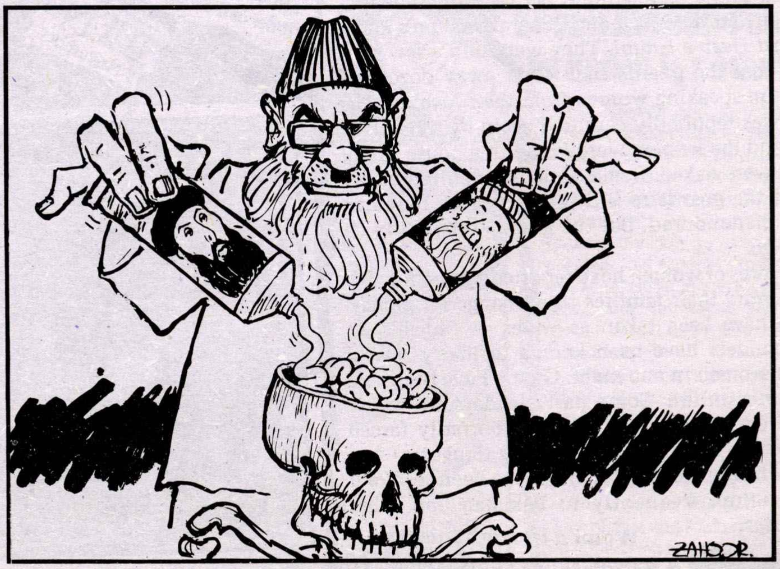
The foreign ministry's top official said in a statement that Islamabad hoped that the Taliban would respect the rights of women and children.

The Frontier Post, *October 6,1996*

Qazi on *jehadi* infighting

To a question, the JI chief Qazi Hussain Ahmed said "it has been our stance since the withdrawal of Russian troops and return of refugees that *jehad* is over. Infighting is no more *jehad* but is just nuisance. Pious people should keep themselves away from mischief and channelise energies for the reconstruction, progress of the country and welfare of the suffering Afghans."

THE MUSLIM, *October15,1996*



BIRDS OF

What is that which the *jehadi* fundamentalist



A man and a woman are being stoned to death by the Jehadi fundamentalists and their Arab brethren.

The price of incorrectly praying

A man flees his devastated house where 15 family members died, victims of mortar shells. As they try in vain to reach the Pakistani border, his 8-month-old baby freezes to death. A fundamentalist commander throws 14 people from the roof of a mosque; they were praying incorrectly. Tens of thousand have fled Kabul for refugees camps in Pakistan.

DIPLOMAT, April, 1994

Eight killed i clashes over abduction o Afghan woma

KABUL (AFP) — Eight p were killed and 12 injured in battles between Prime Mi Gulbuddin Hekmatyar's mer the Uzbek militia over the kid ping of a woman. Afghan so said here We

The ab

The Frontier Po
30 December 1993

The total number of una killed by deliberate artill past three years runs in have been reported from vast majority of victims Kabul. They have died w walking on the streets, schools and mosques wh

Age is no barrier to the c old girl was repeatedly ra district in March 1994 b

In March 1995 *Shura-e-* on hundreds of civilian of Karte Seh, killing or and raping Hazara wom journalist in Kabul, said them they wanted to "c workers in the area con of rape and two atte number was much highe

In the first months c punishments, including recently established Is controlled by the Taliba

Fron

"Jehadi shura" forbidden women from working

In July 1995, the ulema shura in alalabad forbade the 300 female community health workers employed by ERU to continue working. Earlier in the year, the UN suspended all of their female Afghan employees, from office workers to cleaners, on the order of the religious shura.

THE NEWS
1 November 1995

200 killed in intense Afghan fighting

OBSERVER MONITORING

es loyal to Afghan Prime Min- Gulbadin Hekmatyar have ignificant advances against sident's main ally Ahmad Masood in heavy fightin the capital Kabul BBC

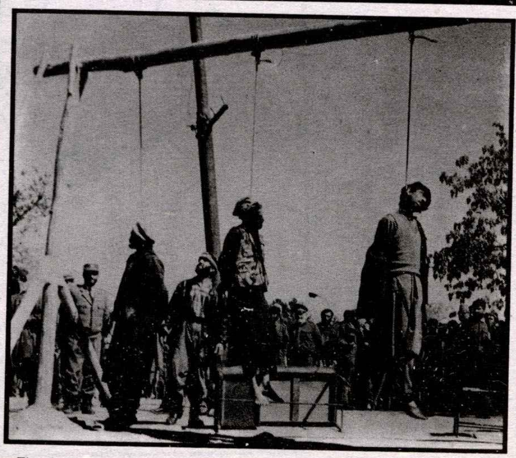
Pakistan Observer
5 November 1994

Fundamentalists' brutalities

A family who lived in Kalala Poshta near Shahr Nou district in Kabul told Amnesty International that they had left their house in 1993 when the area turned into a battleground between the then alliance of *Shura-e Nezar* and General Dostum's forces against *Hezb-e Islami*. They were told a few days later that the guards had taken away dozens of Pashtun-speaking women from their locality. The area was reportedly captured again by a rival faction and the women were found in a house. All of them were naked. Some of the women reportedly asked the guards to kill them because they had been dishonoured, but the guards reportedly let them go.

Scores of women have reportedly been forcibly taken from their families in exchange for money. Some have been taken as wives — Mujahideen commanders have been known to marry several young women in one night. Others have been sold into prostitution. Some party leaders and influential commanders have also reportedly forced families to sell them their young daughters and sons who are then reported to have been sold into prostitution, frequently in Pakistan and other countries.

Women in Afghanistan
A human rights catastrophe (AI)
Amnesty International May 1995



The three men who were hanged by Rabbani "government" in false charges of robbery in Kabul.

Kabul cinema closed

KABUL, July 14 (AFP): ghan premier Gulbadin, matyar has ordered all cin in the battered Afghan ca shut down until they can "suitably Islamic" films, cials said Sunday.

The Prime Minister, took office just 19 days a the head of an inte tion governm music fr

THE MUS

The fundamentalists who in appearance claim to be strongly religious-minded, have reneged time and again on their Quranic pledges in Mecca and in front of their foreign masters.



A scene of the signing ceremony of peace accord between the "Afghan leaders" under the eyes of their Pakistani, Iranian and Saudi god-fathers.

The fanatics are pathologically power-hungry and anti-people. Therefore the war among them will erupt again and again and our people will suffer till to the end of the fundamentalists' domination in Afghanistan.

Who is Gen. Rashid Dostum?

He has been raised and grown by the Soviets and their puppet regimes. Now, he is regarded as the blue-eyed boy of Uzbekistan and many infamous criminals and agents of KHAD (the dreaded secret police of the pro-Moscow puppet regimes) also assist him as their right-hand man. His barbaric militia match the fundamentalists in raping girls and boys, and murdering innocent people. Since Dostom's militia are in a habit of collecting booty of battles and belongings of the looted houses by wrapping them in the carpets which they take away from the houses, they are known throughout Afghanistan as *gilim jam* (carpet rollers).

Dostom poses himself as a 'democrat'. If he had anything to do with democratic values, would he inclined so far to forge alliances with the most notorious murderers like Gulbuddin Hekmatyar and Mazari or Khalili, and now with Rabbani and Masoud?

Dostum forces on rampage of rape and murder

HERAT (AFP) - Opposition forces fighting the Taliban militia in the northwest of the country are on a rampage of looting and rape, civilians fleeing the fighting claimed.

"They set fire to our village, our cattle were slaughtered and 15 men were murdered by the Dostum soldiers," Fazia Razm, who now lives in one of Herat's five displaced persons camps, told AFP.

"Many of the women were dishonoured by the soldiers and kept behind as prisoners," the woman from one of the mainly agricultural and impoverished villages of the area added.

"The Dostum soldiers attacked villages, killed children and old men, and they have taken away hundreds of women to their bases," said Abdul Latif, a refugee in the Rauza Camp.

A spokesman for the French medical group Medecins du Monde (MDM), which works in two of the five camps set up for the influx, said that he had also heard stories of widespread.

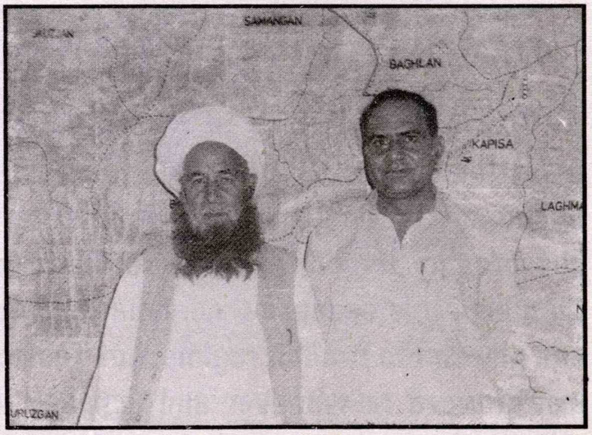
Nevertheless, Dostum's forces have gained a fearsome reputation in over 17 years of war in Afghanistan, earning the nickname "Gillim Jam," or carpet thieves, when they reportedly looted Kabul's carpet bazaar during fighting between rival mujahedeen factions.

The Frontier Post, *December 3,1996*

Who is Maulavi Younis Khalis?

Mr Maulavi Younis Khalis is also a *jehadi* fundamentalist "leader" who "proclaimed in the mid-80s that he was modern-day iconoclast, calling himself Mahmud of Ghazna II. And as the first show of his iconoclasm, he and his forces showered bullets on two statues carved in the Bomyan hills. The leg of one of the statues, an unmatched masterpiece of the Amir Sher Ali Khan period, was broken."(*"WEEKEND POST"*, *October 21,1994*)

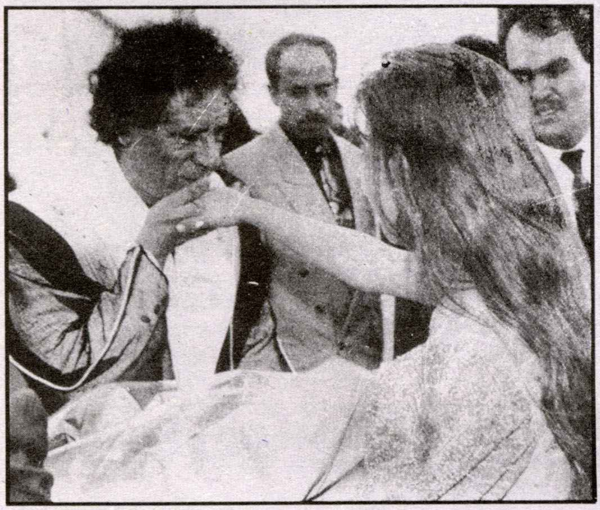
It should be pointed out that the same gentleman calls democracy and even elections as "imported western rubbish" which the Muslims must avoid!



Maulavi Younis Khalis with god-father Brigadier Yousaf

Qaddafi, a demagogue or a "civilized" fundamentalist?

If Col. Qaddafi is not demagogue, then he, instead of giving funds and arms to his beloved Rabbani, Gulbaddin, Masoud and other murderers, must educate them a little bit not to be so savage against women.

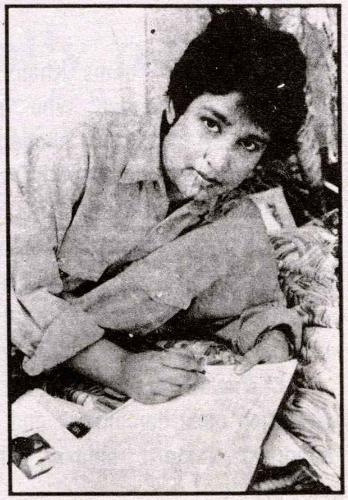


Libyan leader Muammar Gaddafi being welcomed by a woman in Tunisia



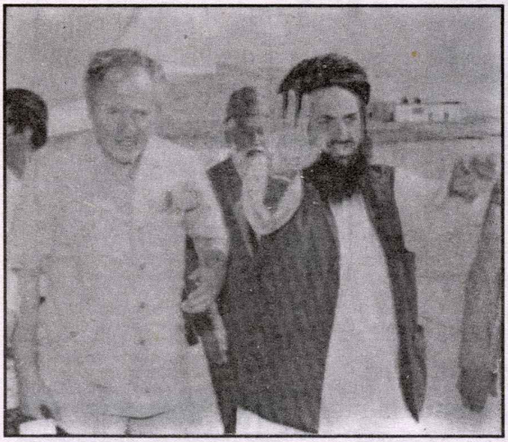
Qaddafi is protected by his female bodyguard

Tasleema Nasrin or Salman Rushdi?



There was an item in *Payam-e-Zan* (No.42) which reads that although both Tasleema Nasrin and Salman Rushdi are victims of fundamentalist terror, Tasleema has proved herself to be more brave and principled than him. It is because Rushdi has even tried to flatter and please the Iranian regime, but Tasleema has never said a word to win-over and appease the fundamentalists who are a constant threat to her life.

Tracing back to the Dark Ages



Maulvi Hafizullah, a high ranking member of the Taliban militia tries to stop photographers taking pictures as it is "un-Islamic". -AFP Photo



Ordinary Taliban pose as an Indian films' macho for photographers.

The ordinary Taliban are not against photography especially when they get an opportunity to pose as an Indian films' macho. But their self-styled "caliphs" in order to display their "love" for Islam and *Shariat* to deceive people, ban photography of human-beings! By the way, what about those Taliban who allow themselves to be photographed? Are they not human beings any more?

Taliban 's another ignorance

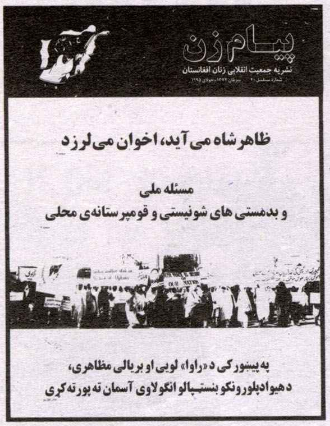
PESHAWAR: Pakistani officials had to face embarrassment at the hands of the Taliban commanders who refused to sign the Arandu-Konarh road opening agreement under the portrait of Quaid-i-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah.

The selection of a new venue for the signing ceremony between the officials and Taliban fighters near the Pak-Afghan border on the Chitral side was delayed for hours, sources informed. It was on Saturday that the visiting Taliban commanders team politely refused to settle the issue in the room having portrait of Quaid-i-Azam. "Yes setting under the portraits is un-Islamic. Taliban cannot compromise on the basic principles of the holy religion", remarked a Taliban leader who asked not to be named. Taliban Islamic movement is against taking pictures and constructing monuments and statues of national heroes, Taliban fighters had removed the portraits and statues of national heroes, even of animals and birds in Kabul and elsewhere in the country considering it un-Islamic.

The News. December 9,1996



Obscurantist Taliban after stopping vehicles at different high-ways, searching travelers for tape recorders, audio/video cassettes, VCRs, TVs etc. And if they found any, smashing them into pieces.







For the purpose of exposing the criminal nature of fundamentalism and fundamentalists of every shade and colour, and for the purpose of upholding basic human rights of the people of Afghanistan and for the purpose of defending the rights of Afghan women, RAWA publishes a bilingual (Pashto-Persian) magazine,





Payam-e-Zan

(The Message of Woman)

which enjoys wide readership in and outside Afghanistan.

















RAWA, P.O.BOX 374, QUETTA, PAKISTAN

Widows in the fetters of fundamentalism

At a sewing class in Kabul, a group of women are learning to smile again. Among the survivors of the continuous shellfire and fighting that has typified the Afghan capital for the last five years, they are particularly vulnerable by virtue of their status in Islamic society - they are widowed.

The world of the traditional Afghan wife is protected and secure within the extended network of her husband's family. Her life is shaped and directed by that family and her activities revolve solely around the maintenance of the housedhold and the rearing of children. Most Afghan women are illiterate, and in contrast to woman's role in other societies, will not deal with household finances. Many women will rarely leave their homes unescorted, even to shop in the marketplace.

The death of a husband very often turns the widow into a liability for the husband's family, which will itself be struggling to survive as a result of the war. If she has healthy male children, the widow has a chance of making a living through them. If she has only daughters, the burden is doubled because of their low status. As the extended family begins to fragment under the economic pressure of war, it is the widows who will be most quickly excluded from the economic and social support system.

Once cast adrift, the women have little chance of earning a living. They may get some seasonal work in the fields, or housekeeping, but once they have sold off any valuables, many are reduced to borrowing, begging and even prostitution. Many live for days with nothing to eat but bread and tea, and every ounce of their energy is spent on providing food for their children.

For 2,200 of the widows of Kabul, their lifeline is a project run by CARE International and funded by the ODA. The project provides training in sewing, embroidery and knitting in return the widows receive food in exchange for the garments they produce. The clothes are sold at subsidised prices to other aid organisations for distribution in displaced people's camps.



Payam-e-Zan photo

Families who lost their houses and belongings take shelter in a mosque. Fundamentalist gangs have taken over many civilian houses and then killed the men, raped the women and looted the property.

Tiny rooms in the poorest parts of town fill with women whose strong, tragic faces tell of the grief and hardship they have endured over the past years - every one has a heart-breaking story to tell. And it is in the telling of these stories, as much as in the learning of skills, that the women's groups have come to play such an important part in the society of the widows. For most of the women, the groups are the first chance they have had for years to share their experiences within a supportive, constructive social network.

Visitors are plied with tea and biscuits, even though the women themselves are barely eating. Many of them sit shyly, quietly sewing (just a few days of training sees them producing exquisitely embroidered work), but after a while even the less confident among them volunteer some details about their lives.

They speak of dead husbands, wounded and traumatised children, of the horror of rockets failing randomly from the sky, and of the endless quest for food. When a visitor asks whether any of their children has eaten a piece of fruit recently, they laugh, saying that it has been so long since they were able to afford fruit or vegetables, they gave no idea any more what the prices are in the market place.

As each one talks, eyes around the room fill with tears. These women live weighed down by permanent state of depression which far outweighs any western concept of stress. They speak of their "nerves" night-mares, chronic stomach complaints, weeping, heart palpitations and migraine. All of them say agian and again how much the sewing groups mean to them how good it is to meet and talk while working, and how they hope and pray the CARE will continue to find the funds to keep the project going.

Most of these women are illiterate, largely unskilled and unaccustomed to making choices in life; for them the sewing groups represent all there is of the future. However, the confidence and camaraderie which the women have gathered from the groups has begun to motivate them and it is quite clear that their first concern is for their children's education.

The worst of the year is still to come-in winter the temperatures go down to way below freezing; heating fuel is as hard to come by as food, and the militias traditionally step up their shelling of the city, knowing the havoc they can wreak on a population huddled inside for warmth. Even with emergency feeding programmes, it is difficult to imagine the degree of hardship these women will face during the cold months. Their extraordinary courage and resilience leaves no doubt of the enormous value of the small contribution that such aid projects can make to their lives.

The Muslim, *December 13,1996*

Kids under the dagger of the fundamentalists

For as long as they can remember, the 850 residents of north-western Kabul's "Daurul Itam" orphanage, ages 6 months to 21 years, have known nothing but war. Perhaps a rocket killed their mother, or their father... Some do not remember their parents at all.

....

The past decade and a half have been a calamity for most Afghans, millions of whom have lost homes, livelihoods, relatives, herds and other property in this country's civil war. But no group elicits more pity than the children who no longer have parents or loved ones to turn to in a society where family ties count for everything. "Really we cannot do the same thing that children's parents do," Daurul Itam's acting director, Abumuslim Mukhtar, admitted. "The orphans feel different from other children when they see the kindness of fathers and mothers towards their own children, it is very painful for them. That, if think is the hardest thing for them to bear."

....

According to UNICEF, only 27 percent of Afghan boys attend primary school, and just 4 percent of the girls. Under the steel-fisted rule of the Islamic fundamentalist Taliban militia, which has closed schools for girls in the areas of Afghanistan it controls the percentage of literate girls will almost certainly decline. For the children at Daurul Itam, hardships keep coming. The director panicked and ran off as bands of armed Talibs approached Kabul, Afghanistan's capital, in late September.

....

When the Taliban banned women in Kabul from working, the orphanage lost all but four of its 350 female employees, and the 100 men who work there have been poor substitutes at mending and washing clothes, teaching school or acting as surrogate mothers. "All the children do now is sleep and eat," said Mukhter. Because Kabul's banks have been shut for most transactions since the Taliban occupied the city, the orphanage cannot buy food. UN agencies have promised to pitch in to tide Daurul Itam over, but already stocks are running low: two weeks worth of flour, nine days' of oil, five days' of sugar, Mukhtar said.

It has been three months since the orphans last tasted meat, a staple in the Afghan diet. Now, they say, they are hungry all the time. "Each one of us used to eat a plate of rice or potatoes or whatever there was," Hadayat, 10 year-old, told a visitor, "these days we have to share it with somebody else. We used to get meat and fruit three times a week, and now there is nothing."

....

The dining hall is a dark chamber so cramped that the children have to eat in half a dozen shifts on tables covered with greasy green plastic.

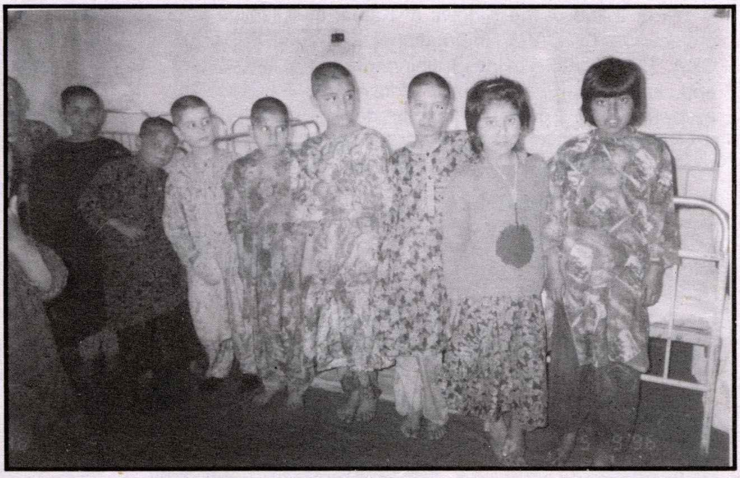
....

They have no good shoes or socks, no toys, few books beyond dog eared school manuals.

....

Friba, 18 year old with a crew cut, spends hours in an unlighted second-floor corridor hugging herself and saying nothing. She came to the orphanage 12 years ago after her parents were killed during combat between Afghanistan's then Kremlin-installed government and Muslim insurgents. Noor Jan, 9 is another speechless girl, who sometimes tears her clothes for no apparent reason. Orphanage workers said her mother, driven mad by a sound of bombs and rockets, burned four of Noor Jan's sisters alive one day by throwing them in a cooking fire.

THE MUSLIM, *November 28,1996*



What lies in store for these ill-fated orphans now at the "mercy" of fundamentalist forces? Is there any guarantee that the jehadis, *who do not desist from raping 70-year-old women, gang rape them or offer them as gifts to their Arab 'brethren'?*

Kabul Orphanage

From *"Payam-e-Zan"* correspondent

War not only turns a country into ruins, but it also leaves thousands of children unschooled and wanderer. At the time of the Russians occupation, orphanages were organized to brainwash the hapless children by taking advantage of their vulnerability. After the fall of puppet regime and domination of the *jehadi* forces, an orphanage located in Afshar (north west of Kabul) had about 5000 children. This orphanage was caught in cross fire between *Hezb-e-Wahdat* and *Itehad-e-Islami* groups. Out of 5000 children only 40 children were "rescued by Islamic government". Others were kidnapped by savage *jehadi* bandits.

These 40 children were carried to Setara Orphanage located in Taymani along with other 850 children living in it already. Setara Orphanage was running by so-called Kabul government. These children are living in deplorable conditions. They are unfamiliar with terminology of childhood. Most of them suffer from depression. This orphanage has no mark of distinction from a jail. Lack of food, clothes and medicine is visible. Moral state of orphans is not good either.

A few examples

Maryam a 14 year old girl is from Qarabagh district of Parwan province. Her father was killed and her mother remarried. She runs out of her house and then brought to orphanage by an unknown person four years ago. Once she attempted to escape from the orphanage, but was caught by guards and badly beaten up by gun butts. She is afraid of every one.

Maliha d/o Jumagul class 7/B writes: I am from Pulekhumree. We had a good life. My father was a director and my mother was a teacher. My mother was hit by a rocket. I was 10 years old at that time. After one year my father remarried and my elder brother went to Russia. My grand father brought me and my younger brother to the orphanage.

Farida another girl writes: My father was a worker and my mother was a tailor. Both were killed by rockets. I don't like to stay in orphanage. I has never seen a happy day in my life.

Fereshta writes: All my life is full of sorrow and grief. All the days and nights I keep thinking that why my father got killed and my mother remarried. I am hopeless. what can I do while I am in prison. I write these few lines with tears in my eyes. My life is miserable.

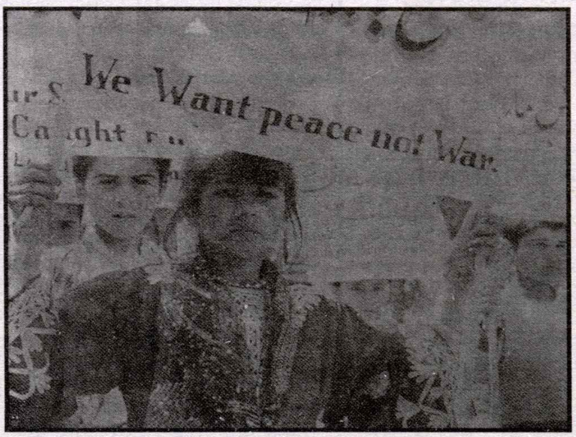
Maryam an other girl writes: My father was a *Mujahid*, when I was 10 years old he was killed and my mother remarried with some one else. All my days and nights pass with sorrow and grief. Any time I feel that I will die. Some children go home in weekends but I don't, I'm very sad for this.

Fereshta d/o Baz Mohammed class 8 B writes: My days pass with sorrow and grief. My grand father used to come and visit me. But once he said "I am too old and I can't come to visit you any more." Since then I have not seen him, now I'm 14 and my brother is 10.

Each child in this orphanage has such stories.

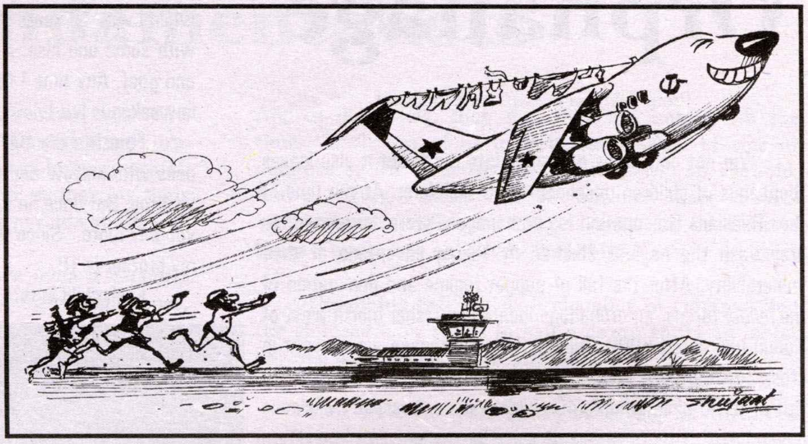


Afghan orphan children share their lunch in an orphanage located in the north-west of Kabul,. Hundreds of children in Kabul's only orphanage are facing a battle for survival due to the shortage of food after new Taliban leaders cut down funding to the institution and face a grim winter as the cold begins to take its grip on the city. - AFP



Children, who lost their parents and whatever they had, protest the fundamentalist war-lords. -AFP photo

"How will we show our faces"



Seven Russian crew members had been arrested by the Taliban when their plane was force-landed by the **Taliban** in Kandahar more than a year ago. But the seven crew overpowered their three armed Taliban guards and flew away to Sharjah, as all Taliban anti-aircraft guns were unmanned due to Friday prayers and pilots of the jet- fighter were mostly on their weekly holiday.

Maulvi Wakil Ahmad, a member of the Taliban ruling *shura* (Assembly) while denying any deal said: "It shouldn't have happened, but what can one do when God Almighty willed it so."

But, a couple of Taliban officials, pledging anonymity, told The News: "How will we show our faces to the world. This incident has exposed us as being ill-organized and incompetent."

***The News**, August 18,1996*

AFGHANISTAN FROM THE EYE OF UN

According to the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Assistance for Afghanistan (UNOCHA) press release, Afghanistan is placed 170th of the 174 countries listed on the United Nations Index of Human Development - lower than any other country outside Africa. It ranks last on the list of 135 countries listed on the UNDP Gender Development Index. Millions of Afghans face dire poverty, disease, and lack of access to such essentials as clean water, energy, adequate shelter, basic health services and education. Millions are coping with displacement, untended physical and emotional disabilities, preventable diseases, and the threat posed by landmines. Lack of rainfall and snow this winter could lead to serious food shortages later this year.

***The News**, January 21,1997*

Afghanistan has almost 500,000 handicapped people who have lost their limbs in mine explosions.

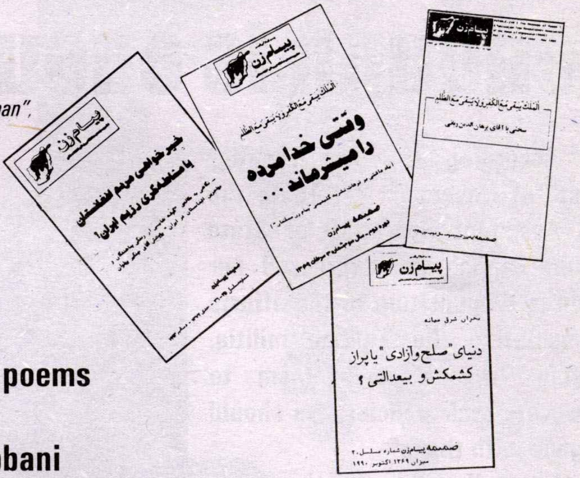
Agriculture contributed about 25 percent of the GNP in 1993 and 27 percent of export income. Approximately 43 percent of the labour force is employed on the land mainly cultivating small holdings or herding sheep, cattle and goats. Twelve percent of the area is cultivated another 10 percent is pastureland and a further six percent is considered to have agricultural potential. In total, more than 12,000. farming villages have been abandoned or destroyed out of 22,000. From the Soviet invasion till its withdrawal, over 2,000 km of paved roads and 3,000 km of secondary roads were damaged and about 350 bridges of various types and spans located in different part of the country were rendered inoperative. Twenty percent of the total transport fleet, constituting 5,000 trucks was destroyed. Five million heads of cattle, 20 percent of the total livestock population, were killed. Another 1.35 million heads of cattle were moved out of Afghanistan. The tragedy curtailed traditional exports, fruits, vegetables, nuts, carpets, skins, cotton, and natural gas. Major crop production in agriculture sector dropped between 30 and 70 percent affecting wheat, rice, cotton and sugar beat.

A UN survey concluded that in 1994 Afghanistan had earned the distinction of becoming the world's largest producer of opium. One particularly unwelcome consequence of Afghanistan's civil war has been the dramatic rise in opium poppy growing, an industry which rises several hundred million dollars annually and which is country's biggest export earner. Taxes between 10-20 percent are levied on the trade by the commanders in the opium growing provinces. A UN Drug Control Programme (UNDCP) survey claimed that in 1994 Afghanistan had produced 3,270 tones of opium, thus displacing Myanmar (Burma) as the world's largest supplier.

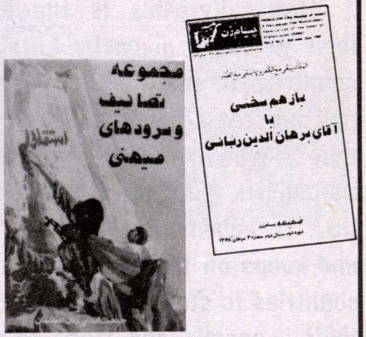
WEEKEND POST
November 29,1996

Some of our publications in Persian

- **When God put to shame a dead...**
  - Note on idle talks of Hekmatyar's "Payam-e-Zan-e-Musalman", a publication of Hezb-e-Islami



- **An era of "peace and freedom" or turmoil and injustice?**
  - A supplement of "Payam-e-Zan" on Gulf Crisis
- **A collection of patriotic songs and poems**
- **A word with Mr. Burhanuddin Rabbani**
  - Refutation of Rabbani's accusations against RAWA
- **Once again a word with Mr. Burhanuddin Rabbani**
  - On exposing the sinister plots of Rabbani and his "brothers-in-faith" against Afghan people



- **Well-wishing of the people of Afghanistan or whitewashing of the regime of Iran?**
  - A critical glance at an article by Dr Changiz Pahlavan, a cultural spokesman of the Islamic Republic of Iran

By financial help of some friends from Europe, America and Canada, RAWA has published a color brochure, highlighting its activities, standpoints and the catastrophic situation in Afghanistan.

Our readers can get it through our address by paying its postal charges.



RAWA
P.O.BOX 374
QUETTA
PAKISTAN

Afghans do not want Taliban, enough is enough Ms Raphel



According to "The Frontier Post" of November 27, 1996, the US Assistant Secretary of State Robin Raphel had expressed her country's opposition to the efforts of isolating the Taliban militia, saying "if we wish them to moderate their policies, we should engage with them."

Ironically, this is the same logic which is given by European countries in justification of their policies towards Iran. They say that "if we wish the Iranian regime to moderate its policies we should engage with it." But the USA is vehemently rejecting this standpoint and keeps on trying to persuade the European countries to stand firm against Iran and reduce their economic and trade ties with it to the minimum level.

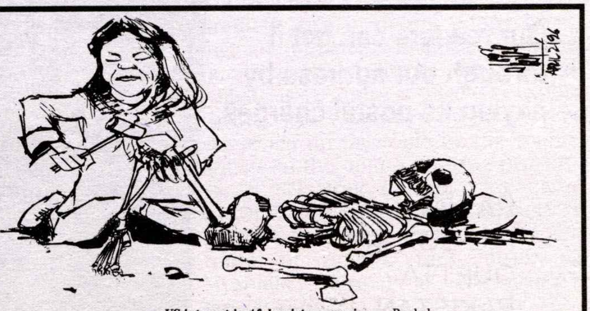
Ms Raphel should explain whether there is a change in the US policy now that she prefers to be "engaged with" a group of fundamentalists more rotten than their Iranian brothers?

She also said that despite "nearly universal misgivings" about the Taliban movement, it must be acknowledged as a significant factor in the Afghan equation and one that will not simply disappear any time soon."

Again, we would like to ask Ms Raphel that if your CIA believes that they can topple the 18-year old regime of Iran by allocating a modest amount of 8 million dollars only, then how do you assume that a small, irregular band of ultra-reactionary religious fundamentalists like Taliban is there to stay as it would not disappear any time soon?

Ms Raphel, some years back, America used to call the terrorist gang of Gulbaddin Hekmatyar as the "most powerful" and "effective" *jehadi* force, and the CIA poured almost half of the arms and funds meant for Afghan fundamentalists and their accomplices, to his band. But you have seen how Gulbaddin, Rabbani, Sayyaf, Masood and other blue-eyed boys of CIA have been dislodged overnight and now all of them are on the run for their lives. If America or her allies do not "engage" themselves with the Taliban, the people of Afghanistan would have the strength to end once and for all their domination that is taking us back to the Dark Ages.

As a bird's strength is in its wings, the Taliban's strength is in their friends like your country Ms Raphel. We have had enough of the fundamentalists, please do not try to "engage" yourselves with them at the expense of the vast majority of the bereaved Afghan masses.



US interest in Afghanistan growing — Raphel

"US helping Taliban to destabilize Iran"

TEHRAN, April 12 (AFP): Iran has accused the United States of helping the Afghan Taliban militia to smuggle in drugs to destabilize the Islamic republic, newspapers said here Thursday.

Intelligence Minister Ali Fallahian, quoted by newspapers, said the Taliban which controls western Afghanistan had set up "mafia-like" networks which "injected narcotics" into neighboring Iran:

The "US-guided" operations are "politically-motivated", aimed at "distracting Iranian security forces from other issues and creating trouble" for Iran, he said at a congress on drugs on Wednesday.

The United States itself has put Iran on a list of countries which have allegedly failed to do enough to combat drugs.

THE MUSLIM, *April 13, 1996*



What more do the Taliban want of the dead body of a local villager whom they killed during their attack on Bagram air-base? Money to be looted or perhaps a death-certificate?!

Taliban seek US help

Following their defeats at the hand of the trio (Rabbani, Dostum and Khalili), the Taliban have contacted high officials in the American Embassy at Islamabad seeking help, reported London-based Arabic daily al-Sharq al-Awsat, quoting high officials in the Taliban movement. Taliban have requested military, financial and political help from the United States promising to close all training centers of the so-called 'Arab Afghans' inside the Afghan territories.

THE MUSLIM, *14 October 1996*

"US supporting the rise of Taliban"

Kabul: In this paradise of conspiracy theory, a country that has been the plaything of great powers for more than a century, a new rumor is making the rounds: that the United States is behind the stunning rise of the Taliban.

From the halls of the Foreign Ministry to offices of internationally funded charities, among UN officials and the clientele of Kabul's bazaars, many are persuaded the Clinton administration is covertly supporting the Taliban, the victorious Islamic militia.

The reasons people give are many, even if hard proof, so far, is lacking. The United States, they say is especially driven by the desire to checkmate Iran, Afghanistan's neighbor to the west and a country Washington considers one of the world's leading exporters of terrorism.

How did a ragtag force that emerged in late 1994 among Muslim religious students in the southern region of Kandahar and adjacent areas of Pakistan grow so quickly that two years later, it has become master of three-quarters of Afghanistan? Who paid for its weaponry, ammunition and vehicles?

Who organised its training and logistics? Is intelligence or military assistance received from outside one of the reasons the Taliban has enjoyed astonishing, and relatively bloodless, successes over experienced mujahideen commanders who for nearly a decade fought occupying Soviet troops?

The United States has moved swiftly to establish official contact with the new masters of the Afghan capital.

The very day Kabul fell, a senior Clinton administration official said an envoy would probably be sent here in the near future to consult with officials of the new government formed by the Taliban.

To those numerous Afghans who see an American hand in the Taliban's triumph, the relative speed with which the United States is now seeking to establish official contact with them is offered as further proof of collusion.

By special arrangement with Los Angeles Times and The Washington Post

The News, *October 6,1996*

Abusig in the name of *Hejab*



Herself "imprisoned" of "Islamic hejab" and her child grazed by a jehadi bullet.

In Egypt:

"*Naqab* (*burqa*) not necessary for Muslim women"

MAY 19: Constitutional Court in Egypt has ruled that Islam does not require women to wear the 'Naqab', a form of veil which covers the entire face apart from the eyes, reports BBC.

The court upheld a decision by the education minister two years ago imparting a school uniform which excluded the 'Naqab'.

The minister has been fighting a log running campaign to prevent Islamists fro putting pressure on school girls to wear either the 'Naqab' or more moderate form of veil 'Hijab'.

THE MUSLIM, *May 20, 1996*

But in the fanatics dominated Afghanistan:

Women's fault or cruelty in the name of *Shariat* ?

"Turpeki was taking her toddler to the doctor. The child had acute diarrhea and needed to be seen by a doctor soon. Turpeki was dressed in a *borqa*. She reached the market area when a teen-aged Taliban guard noticed her. The guard called her. Turpeki knew that if she stopped she would be beaten for appearing in public. She was also frightened that her child might die if she did not hurry. She began to run. The Taliban guard aimed his Kalashnikov at her and fired several rounds. Turpeki was hit but did not die. People intervened and took the mother and the child to the doctor. Turpeki's family then complained to the Taliban leaders. But were simply told that it had been the woman's fault. She should not have been appearing in public in the first place; once she did, she should stop, when told so, and not run away."

....

"The young woman was carrying her baby, her two friends walking beside her. All three were veiled, their faces completely hidden from view. Suddenly a passing car braked to a halt and two men jumped out. From the style of their turbans, wrapped round their heads with one end loose and hanging almost down to the waist, it was clear they were the Taliban from Kandahar.

....

Each was brandishing a stick. They set about beating the women on the legs as their arms rose and fell, they shouted that the women should never come out in public dressed in such immoral fashion again. A few inches of bare leg were showing above the women's ankles between their shoes and the bottom of their pajama-style trousers.

....

The women with the baby staggered and swayed beneath the blows, desperately trying to stay upright. None of the three dared to utter a sound as the sticks whipped their legs. Then the men got back in the car and drove off. The incident lasted less than five minutes, but it was sufficiently brutal to leave the women quaking as they limped silently away." >

Women who did not have a *burqa* before the Taliban arrived in Kabul have had to spend excessive amounts of money to buy one. In mid-October 1996, a *burqa* reportedly cost as much as $33, about three times the salary of a senior civil servant. The serious finance burden this imposes on women who have lost their jobs has led to further punishment. An eye-witness reported Amnesty International:

"A Taliban guard stopped an Afghan woman who had gone out of the house, and beat her severely with a cable rod for not wearing a *burqa*. The women cried that she could not afford to buy a *burqa* but the guard did not stop beating her.'

AI, November 18,1996

Should the world be waiting to see other 'Islamic products' as vehicles, radios, TVs, furniture and ...?

Iranian fundamentalists feel threatened by 'satanic dolls'

TEHRAN, May 7 (AFP): An new danger is sweeping Iran in the shape of Barbie, the curvy, plastic all-American toy beloved of little girls across the world, whose growing popularity here has led to her being dubbed the satanic doll by Islamic hardliners.

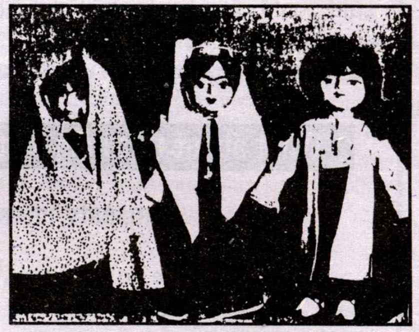
Blonde or brunette, in evening dress or swimming costume, even pregnant, Barbies in all shapes have invaded toy-shop widows in Tehran and other major cities, sparking a wave of alarm.

Sobh, a magazine run by Islamic hardliners, protested last week that 'the unwholesome flexibility of these dolls, their destructive beauty and there semi-nudity have an effect on the minds and morality of young children'.

These toys 'are the perfect representation of the satanic and perverse culture' of the West and their 'omnipresence on the Iranian market is a marked sign of the growing invasion and influence of Western culture'.

Barbie dolls 'attack children's minds without them being able to put up the slightest defence' and 'spread models of Western women' among Islamic society, the magazine said.

THE MUSLIM, *December.8,1996*



Will Sara and Dara, the Iran-made "Islamic dolls" be acceptable to the Taliban?

Taliban ban Iranian TV

TEHRAN: The Taliban militia has banned people in the western Afghan province of Herat from receiving television broadcasts from neighboring Iran, a newspaper in Tehran reported on Saturday. The Taliban is inspecting homes to assure that people are not receiving Iranian television, which can been received in a large part of the country, particularly in the west. According to the Kar-o-Karghar newspaper, the Taliban destroy the televisions as "punishment for those who receive Iranian television." - AFP

The News, *Decembe .22,1996*

Taliban ban musical toys

One 8-year-old victim was listening to a musical toy with friends in the alley outside his house. According to eye-witness reports given to Amnesty International:

"Taliban guards suddenly appeared. They snatched the toy from the child and bashed it several times against the nearby wall until it was completely smashed. They then grabbed the boy by the arm and slapped him hard in the face several times."

AI, *November 18,1996*

They are all chips of the same block

Taliban accuse ex-govt of torturing prisoners

"Torture is un-Islamic and will never be used by Taliban ", Bismallah

Kabul (AFP) - Taliban authorities at Kabul's Department for National Security Monday accused the ousted Afghan government of routinely torturing jailed prisoners.

The Muslim militia's new head of the department, Mullah Bismallah, showed journalists an electro-shock device which he claimed was used for interrogating detained.

The wind-up unit had two protruding electric wires, at the end of which were what appeared to be thumb loops: turning the crank would produce an electric charge which he said could also be applied to a steel chair or other body parts.

The allegations were made after journalists were invited to see prisoners captured in recent Taliban advances against the opposition coalition north of Kabul.

He also claimed that large piles of bloodstained clothings - belonging to both men and women - were also discovered in the compound when the Taliban seized the capital just over three months ago.

He added that a number of the cells had the names of prisoners written in their own blood and that some rooms were filled to waist level with water so that prisoners were unable to sit down or sleep.

When asked if Taliban intended to destroy the 20 or so electro-shock devices they claimed to have found, Bismallah replied that torture is "un-Islamic and will never be used by Taliban."

***The Frontier Post**, December 31,1996*

What about torturing by the Taliban themselves? Is that too "un-Islamic" ?

Amnesty International writes on torturing by Taliban:

The Taliban are no exception, they have not only taken prisoners of war but have detained hundreds of people, including children and women, solely because of their ethnic origin, because they did not obey religious decrees of the Taliban or because they sympathized or were suspected of sympathizing with the Taliban's opponents. Detainees appear to be held in order to punish, humiliate or intimidate them, or to be used as hostages. In some cases, they have been released after they have paid a bribe. Most are held incommunicado and family members find it hard to trace them. Most detainees are held in the prisons taken over from the previous administration but some have been kept in metal transport containers lift behind from the period of the Soviet presence. These containers, without sanitary provisions, have been used by warring factions as both places of detention and as means of punishment; as they are not insulated they become unbearably hot in summer and equally unbearably cold in winter. The families of those taken prisoner are suffering the agony of not knowing where their sons, brothers and fathers are, what has happened to them, or whether they are alive or dead.

....

Detainees in Taliban custody have been frequently made to do hard labour in sometimes life threatening conditions such as mine clearance. Several people detained in Kandahar in early 1995, were reportedly brought to the front line southwest of Kabul in September 1995 to dig trenches for the Taliban. As the area was mined, many of the prisoners were killed or injured when the mines exploded. Those injured were reportedly simply left to die. One of the survivors succeeded in escaping to Pakistan where he received treatment in a hospital.

***Afghanistan,** Grave abuses in the name of religion,*
***AI,** November 18,1996*

THEY ARE ALL CHIPS OF THE SAME BLOCK

Torture cells of the fundamentalists

The following list, which is by no means exhaustive, is intended to provide back-ground information on the location and type of Mujahideen detention centres before 1992.

In Afghanistan

- Baghnay valley, in the northern part of Helmand province, reportedly had four prison sites, including a cave, which were used to imprison opponents of commanders of *Harekat-e Inqilab-e Islami*, one of seven Mujahideen parties based in Peshawar.
- Baharak jail, in the Panjshir valley, was controlled by Ahmad Shah Masoud, affiliated to *Jamiat-e Islami*. It is one of the few Mujahideen detention centres that has been visited by foreign journalists. Many prisoners were doing forced labour. Prisoners had been sentenced by religious courts. Some reported that prisoners had been sentenced to death and subsequently executed.
- A detention facility in Chandtappa, Kunduz province, controlled by *Jamiat-e Islami*.
- A local *Jamiat-e Islami* commander was reported to have a small jail in the basement of his headquarters in Danishmand village, Kabul province.
- Koach Ghar, a prison in Mirbachakot district, Kabul province, was reportedly controlled by *Hezb-e Islami* (Hekmatyar). The prison was reportedly in the basement of the local headquarters of the group.
- Jaji, in Paktia province, was said to be a major prison complex of several separate jails controlled by Wahabi Arabs, *Hezb-e Islami* (Hekmatyar) and *Ittehad-e Islami*.
- Spina Shaga, another jail in the Jaji area, was reportedly controlled by *Hezb-e Islami* (Hekmatyar). Amnesty International had received frequent reports of torture and some reports of executions in the jail.
- Zhawar, in Paktia province, close to the Pakistan border, was reportedly controlled by the Mujahideen commander Jalaluddin Haqqani who is affiliated to *Hezb-e islami* (Khalis).
- In Urgun, Paktia province, there was reportedly a detention centre controlled by a faction of *Harekat-e Inqilab-e Islami* led by Maulavi Mansoor.
- In Mohammad Gart, Kunarha province, two separate jails were controlled by *Hezb-e Islami* (Hekmatyar) and *Ittehad-e Islami*.
- In Uruzgan province, *Nasr* and *Sepah* (two Mujahideen organisations whose headquarters were in Iran) had control of jails in the areas of La'l Kabir and Gajran. Another jail was reportedly located in Nili, and there was a cave nearby which was also used as a jail.
- In Taloqan, the capital of Takhar province which was controlled by Ahmad Shah Masoud of *Jamiat-e Islami*, a jail held about 100 prisoners. Four Soviet personnel reportedly held there in 1989 were said to be allowed to move freely within Taloqan town. It was estimated that a further 600 prisoners were held by *Jamiat-e Islami* in Panjshir valley.

In Pakistan

- In Shamshatoo, 15 kilometers north of Peshawar, and Warsak, 20 kilomerters north of Peshawar, *Hezb-e islami* (Hekmatyar) was believed to maintain its two main detention centres. Afghans abducted in Pakistan have reportedly been taken to both. Reports imply these two detention centres are still in operation.
- In Peshawar, several houses were used as detention centres by the seven major Mujahideen groups. Many were in the University Town and Jahangirabad areas.
- In Munda, near Peshawar, a Mujahideen group was known to have a detention centre.

***AFGHANISTAN:** International responsibility for human rights disaster, **AI**, November 1995*

A detention centre belonging to *Hezb-e Wahdat* was reportedly opened in March 1995 when government forces captured positions held by *Hezb-e Wahdat* in Karte-seh, west of Kabul. Around 1,500 prisoners, including 150 women, were reportedly released. (AI)

RAWA
The voice of Afghan women

RAWA briefs Amnesty International representatives

On July 16,1996 representative of Revolutionary Association of the Women of Afghanistan had a meeting with a delegation of AI in Peshawar. In the meeting that lasted for about two and half hour, Mr Abbas Faiz, in-charge of Afghanistan desk of AI, and Mr Rory Mangoren, in-charge of the Asia desk, were represented their organisation.

The RAWA representatives asked the AI delegation that it should inform the people of the world about the barbaric and savage nature of the Afghan fundamentalists. While apprising the AI delegation of the extent of horror these barbarians have unleashed upon the Afghan, RAWA requested its representatives to try to take the case of their crimes against Afghan people to the International Court of Justice.

As it has been a practice over the years, RAWA presented its reports to AI about human rights violation in the country (mass-killing, kidnapping, rape, torture, arbitrary execution...).

Mr Rory of AI was of the view that despite the fact that the UN had forgotten the sad story of Afghanistan, their organisation was still interested in keeping direct contact with RAWA and other democratic, freedom-loving Afghan organizations in order to get a more accurate and reliable documents about human rights abuses in Afghanistan.

The AI delegation expressed its hope that there should be more direct and frequent contacts between the two organisations in the future, and added that AI will publish all those reports which RAWA would give by mentioning its source.



A RAWA's demonstration in Peshawar on April 28,1996, condemned the invasion of Kabul by fundamentalists

RAWA
The voice of
Afghan women

RAWA held a rally on the occasion of Human Rights Day

On December 10,1996 RAWA staged a demonstration to observe Human Rights Day and condemn the human rights grave abuses in Afghanistan in the grip of fundamentalists of all colors and shades.

The demonstration which was staged at Peshawar Mor at 12pm and later marched towards Karachi Company, called upon the freedom-loving and democratic organizations of Pakistan and other countries to raise their voice against the disastrous situation in Afghanistan and declare their solidarity with the bereaved Afghan people.

Hundreds of Afghan women and children attended the rally and kept chanting slogans against Taliban, Rabbani, Hekmatyar, Dostum, Sayyaf, ect. A two-page resolution was also distributed among the participants which said: "Observance of 10 December as Human Rights Day will be useless, unless the world community and organizations championing cause of human rights don't condemn the horrible crimes of fundamentalists in Afghanistan."

"The aim of today's demonstration is to defend our women in the grip of Taliban and their jehadi brothers. It is a small contribution towards our great obligation which is decisive struggle against the blood thirsty fundamentalists", it further said.

The demonstration also condemned the military, financial and political support of Pakistan, Iran, Saudi Arbia and other countries to the Taliban and other jehadiforces and said: "To oppose the savage assaults of theTaliban against our women, we must struggle to overthrow them."

The demonstrators were dispersed in Karachi Company after having a long march of three hours.



RAWA's rally on the occasion of Human Rights Day in Islamabad

Parts of RAWA's declaration on the occasion of 8th March 1996

The ultra-reactionary group of Taliban, who has got priority in the *"jehadi"* battles against their *"jehadi* brothers", are more anti-woman, anti-culture and anti-science than their fundamentalist brethren. They close the doors of educational institutions and shamelessly proclaim that women are men's slaves and should be kept behind the home walls and be used as means of entertainment.

If the government of Pakistan really wants to act as a friend of our people, it must avoid collaboration with Iran, Saudi Arabia and other religio-fascist governments to support the fundamentalists, and instead should try its best to indict and bring all their chieftains to trial as the most wanted criminals. As far as the Afghan fundamentalists have not been given an exemplary punishment, the hue and cry for the trial of two Serb officers by the International Criminal Tribunal sounds worthless, and ridiculous.

Correctly is saying that the world has forgotten the fundamentalism-stricken Afghanistan. But this obliviousness is more rigorous regarding the women of this wasted land. In no part of the world the women are being so brutally and largely suffered and raped as the Afghan women by the thuggish fanatics. Numerous women prefer to commit suicide to avoid rape by *"jehadis"* The rate of the rape-related suicide in Afghanistan is far more than in any other part of the world.



International Women's Day celebrated by RAWA.1996

RAWA
The voice of
Afghan women

RAWA informed the participants about miseries Afghan women face daily

On November 9,1996 some members of RAWA were invited by the WAF (Women Action Forum) to participate in a seminar which was organized by the said organization to discuss on the question of women's right with a focus on the issue of consent of patron for marriage.

All participants emphasized that full rights should be extended to women to decide themselves about their marriage and their future husband without the consent of their patrons.

Representatives of RAWA, while categorically defended the women's right in their all prospects of life including the right to marry, informed the participants about the miseries and unbearable and inhuman condition of which the Afghan women face in their daily life because the bloody and cruel domination of the fundamentalist gangs.

"In our opinion" she said "the Pakistani women are enjoying relatively more freedom. They can even occupy the post of prime minister. But in Afghanistan the situation is different. There women cannot go outside their homes without a male relative nor can thay go to school or have jobs outside."

The representative of RAWA stressed the members of WAF and other participants of the seminar to help Afghan women by exposing the criminal acts of Afghan fundamentalists and support the Afghan people to pave the way for the establishment of a democratic broad-based government in Afghanistan.

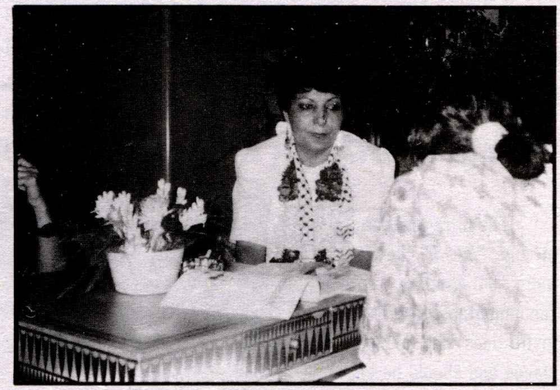
" It's hope to meet in a fundamentalism-free Afghanistan"

In August 1995, the first International Conference of Women Parliamentarians from Muslim countries was held in Islamabad, Pakistan. Besides a large number of women parliamentarians from almost all OIC member states, the living legend of the Palestinian liberation struggle, Laila Khalid, also participated as a member of the Palestinian delegation along with her two colleagues. Laila Khalid also had a brief meeting with some members of RAWA.

Laila repeatedly emphasised the need of a just struggle and the establishment of independent political organizations of women to struggle along side men for the sake of freedom and social justice.

When asked that why the parliamentarian women of Islamic countries did not mention the brutalities of the Afghan fundamentalists against Afghan women, she said that before the inauguration of the conference she asked the organisers whether there was any delegation from Afghanistan, but the reply was in negative.

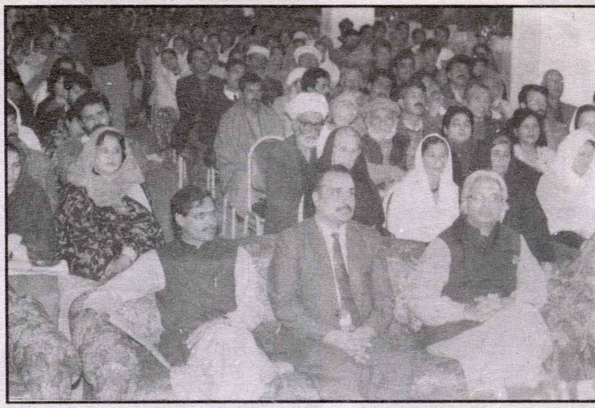
Glancing through some publications of RAWA, Laila Khalid saw a picture of martyred Meena and the representative of RAWA told the great Palestinian: "She was our leader who had been killed with the collaboration of KHAD and fundamentalists in 1987 in Quetta, Pakistan." Laila was visibly moved and impressed by the sad event, and mentioned that "in a gathering a night earlier, they called me (Laila) a hero but I said: I'm not a hero; the real heroes are martyrs." Then, pointing towards the picture of Meena, Laila said: "She is a hero because she sacrificed her life for the sake of her people and homeland, while I'm just a freedom-fighter."



Laila Khalid during an interview with RAWA

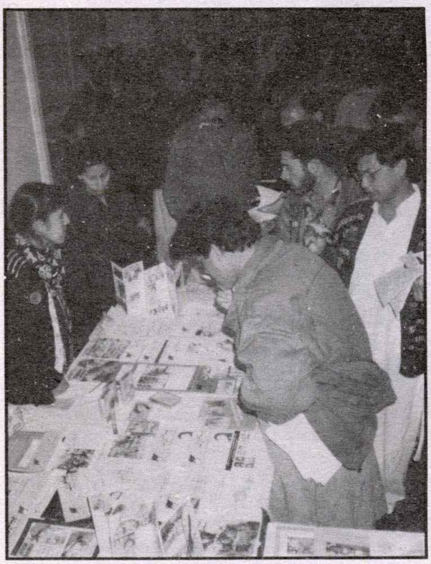
At the end of the meeting, Laila hoped for further successes for the Afghan women and said: "It's hope to meet in a fundamentalism-free Afghanistan."

RAWA
The voice of Afghan women





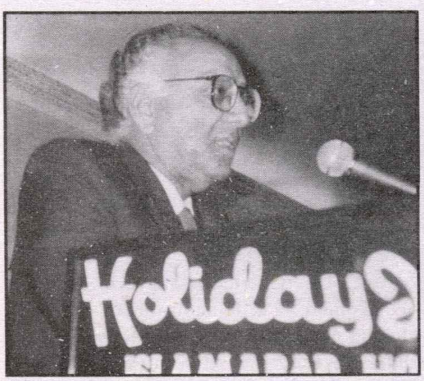
February 4,1994: On the occasion of 7th Martyrdom Anniversary of Meena, Speaker Punjab Assembly, Mr Hanif Ramy graced the ceremony and said in his speech, ***"History will record that Gulbudeen Hekmatyar destroyed Kabul."***



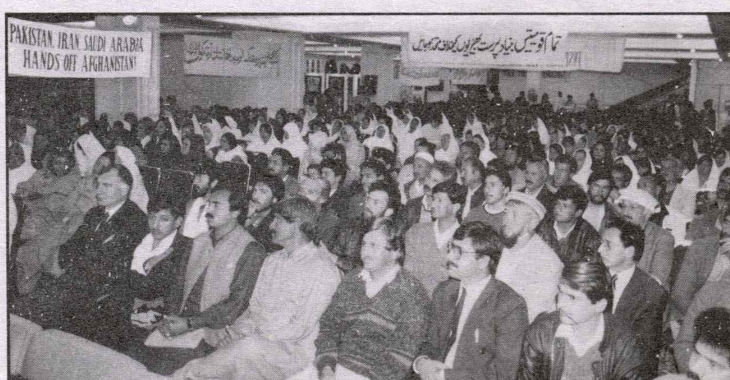
Participants buying RAWA's publications at a function on the occasion of the 8th Martyrdom Anniversary of Meena. Feb. 4,1995.



RAWA members exposing the crimes and anti-human policies of the Taliban and jehadi fundamentalists at a press conference in 1996, Peshawar.



Mr Abad-Hassan Minto leader of Pakistan Worders Party delivering a speech on the 8th Martyrdom Anniversary of Meena, Islamabad, February 4,1995.

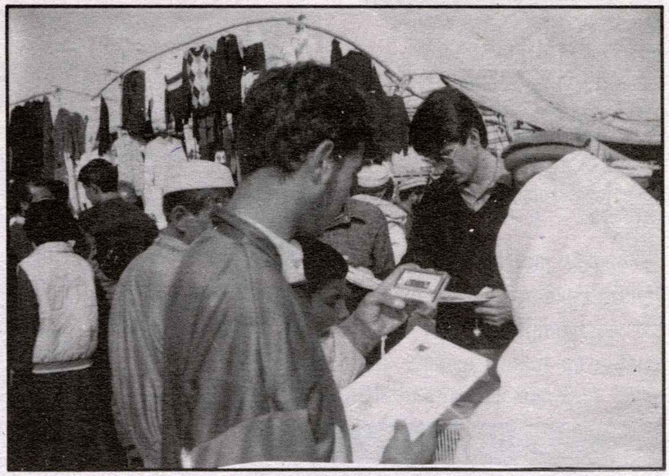


A scene of the function on the occasion of the 8th Martyrdom Anniversary of Meena, Feberuary 4,1995, Islamabad.

RAWA
The voice of
Afghan women



A senior member of PML (N), Ms Mehnaz Rafi delivers a speech in one of RAWA's functions.



Members of RAWA selling their publications at Juma (Friday) Bazaar, Peshawar



Members of RAWA selling their publications at Itwar (Sunday) bazaar, Islamabad.



Members of RAWA, exchanging views with Nancy Hatch Dupree on the human rights violations in Afghanistan.



Nasima Bareen, member of RAWA, exchanging views with former prime minister of Turkey, Bulent Ecevit, and Turkish ambassador, Mustafa Asula on women rights catastrophe in Afghanistan. Islamabad 1994

'Afghan women ignored in MPs moot'

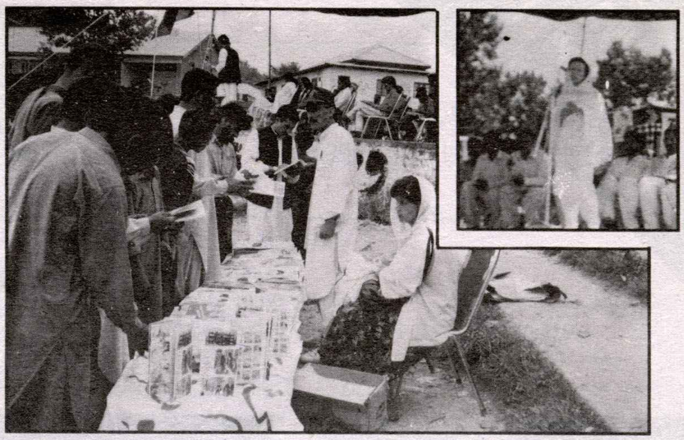
Islamabad, Aug 5: Naseema Bareen, the spokeswoman for the Revolutionary Association of the Women of Afghanistan (RAWA) while bitterly criticising the recently concluded three-day conference of Women Parliamentarians of the Muslim Countries said that it was most shocking that the situation in Afghanistan, where women are being brutally tortured and victimised was not even discussed....

THE MUSLIM, August 6, 1995

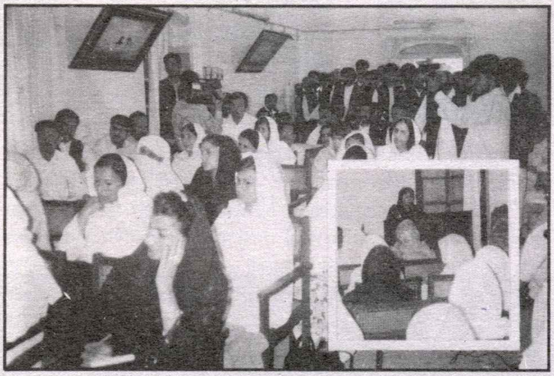
RAWA The voice of Afghan women



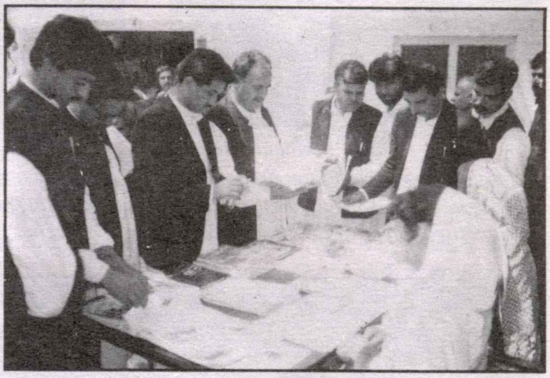
Representative of WAF, Ms Roeeda Sajad in one of RAWA's functions.



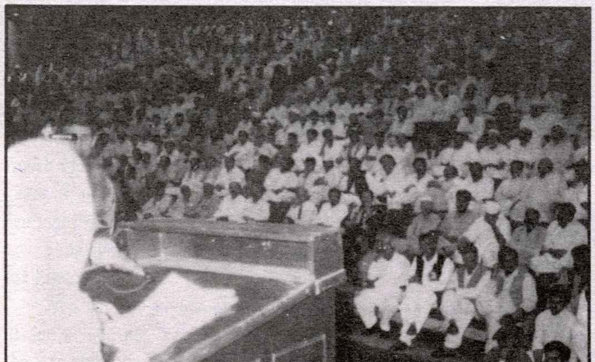
An activist of RAWA delivering a speech on the occasion of death anniversary of Rashid Hasrat, leader of Jammu Kashmir Liberation Front (JKLF) in May 1994. Also seen the publications' table of RAWA.



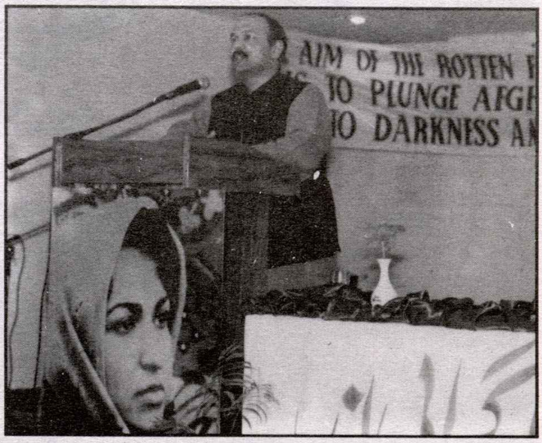
A member of RAWA (in set) addressing the Peshawar District Bar Association on April 16,1996.



Members of RAWA selling their publications at the function of Peshawar District Bar Association.

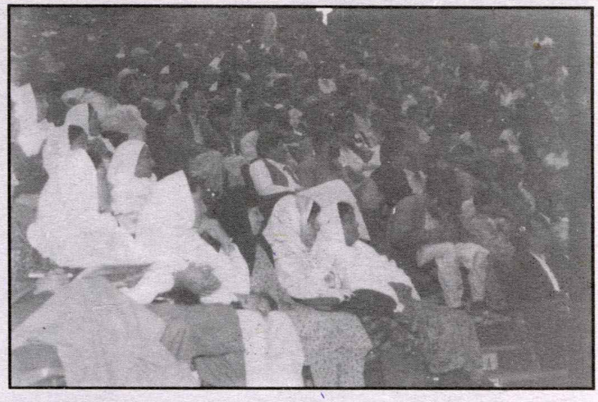


A member of RAWA in her speech on the occasion of Khan Abdul Ghani Khan death anniversary said: "Without struggling against narrow-minded nationalism and exposing the real nature of the fundamentalists and their Khaqi and Parchami collaborators struggle for democracy and freedom will be null and void."



Prominent journalist and Secretary Information of Pakistan Muslim League (N), Mushahid Hussain, addressing a ceremony held to mark the Seventh Martyrdom Anniversary of Meena on February 4,1994

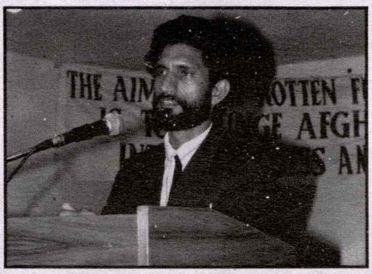
RAWA
The voice of Afghan women



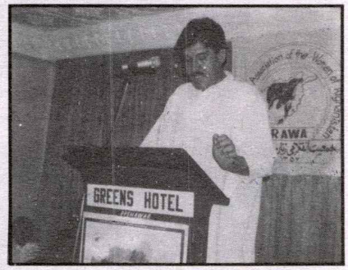
Members of RAWA (front row) at the function on the occasion of Bhutto Day. Peshawar, April 4, 1995



Mr Qamar Abbas, Provincial Minister of prisons and information and a leader of PPP delivers a speech in the RAWA's function. Peshawar, Sep.15,1994.



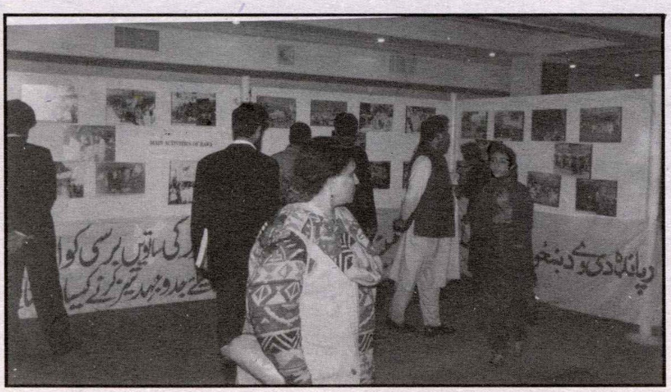
Mr Sabir Kashmiri, a leader of JKLF delivers a speech on the occasion of the 7th Martyrdom Anniversary of Meena. Islamabad, Feb.4,1994



Mr Azam Afridi Provincial leader of PPP delivers a speech in the RAWA's function. Peshawar, Sep.15,1994.



A scene of an Introductory Meeting between RAWA and Pakistan People's Party, Peshawar, September 15,1994



Through a photo exhibition at the 8th Martyrdom Anniversary of Meena (February 4,1995), RAWA exposing the barbaric nature of the Afghan fundamentalists.

On the occasion of the 8th Martyrdom Anniversary of Meena, February 4,1995 we had received messages from some democratic and freedom-loving organizations and personalities. Due to the lack of space we, however publish here just the excerpts of the three messages.

No one minute of silence for women such as Ms. Meena and my sister Homa

We have gathered here to remember Ms. Meena the founder of the Revolutionary Association of the Women of Afghanistan who like my sister Doctor Homa Darabi gave her life for the betterment of the women's lives. I wished I could be with you and deliver this message in person. I hope to be here with you in 1996. I also apologize for writing to you in English, but my Farsi is not very good since I have not done anything in Farsi for over 30 years.

According to the 1992 United Nations Human Rights Report, "Islamic countries continue to be major abusers of human rights, and there are no evidence of improvement in the near future. Abuses continue to include summary executions; widespread tortures; repression of the freedoms of speech, press, assembly, and association; arbitrary detentions; lack of fair trials; repression of minority religious community; denial of citizens right to change their government; and sever restriction on women and worker rights." I can only talk today about the situation for women in Iran and believe that the same is correct for all Islamic countries.

"Iranian citizens do not enjoy the right to change their government peacefully. Iran is ruled by a group of religious leaders (mullahs) and their lay associates who share a belief in the legitimacy of a theocratic state based on Ayatollah Khomaini's interpretation of Shi'a Islam"

Iran claims that they are not violating any human rights, they are an Islamic Republic and that they are practicing what Islam preached. But Islam was preached 1400 years ago. The same way that today we use planes to travel, phones to touch each other, freeze and microwave our food, and on the average live to be 75 years of age we need new fundamental principals by which we can live together and govern ourselves.

Today we must accept the fundamental principal of **"Live and let Live."**

Who am I or anyone else for that matter to say that for some reason or another I, or he or she is better than anyone else. That there is only one way to live and that is my way, his way, or her way. There is no one way to live. There are as many ways to lead one's life as there are people on the face of earth. We should remember that what makes the nature, the places on the earth, and the people interesting are their differences and not their similarities.

According to LEMONDE, January 20, 1979, Ayatollah Ghomi, has been quoted to say that:

"Most Europeans have mistresses. Why should we suppress human instincts? A rooster satisfies several hens, and stallion several mares. A woman is unavailable during certain periods where as a man is always active...."

Ayatollah Ghomi is doing such a fantastic job describing himself and his colleagues as roosters, and horses, that I don't need to add anything more.

What does a horse, or a rooster know about "Human Instinct". One has to be a human first, before, one can have the "Human Instinct". People like him are the ones who tarnish the "Human Dignity".

Since when does a marriage license gives a man the right to rape his wife any time he pleases. Since when a marriage license gives a man the right to torture his wife, why should a woman become the property of her husband? And why so much violence against women? A woman is a human being just like a man and not a piece of furniture, or clothing to do with what a man wants any time he wants. Don't these Hojatoleslam's, and Ayatollahs have sisters, mothers and daughters? Of course not. These Hojatoleslam's, and Ayatollahs are animals and they could not have possibly been born to women. They must not have sisters and daughters. No decent man would like to do to his mother, sisters, and daughters what these animals preach to be done to their wives in the name of God.

The Islamic Republic believes by keeping women at home, men can build a better society. This is a wrong assumption.

In the Islamic Republic, girls condemned to death penalty may not undergo the sentence as long as they are virgin. Thus they are systematically raped before the sentence is executed.

According to the 1992 report of the Special Representative of the Commission of the Human Rights of the United Nations in the Islamic Republic of Iran,

"To rape women prisoners, especially virgin girls, who are accused of being against the regime, is a normal and daily practice in the Islamic Republic's prisons, and by doing so, the clergies declare that they adhere to the merits of the Islamic principles and laws, preventing a virgin girl to go to Heaven. Mullahs believe that these are ungodly creatures and they do not deserve it, therefore they are raped to be sure they will be sent to hell".

In the Islamic Republic adultery is only a crime committed by women and the penalty for adultery is death by stoning. Men can never be adulterous, since in Islam they can have as many women as

they want. Even the method of stoning is discriminatory to women. In the punishment of stoning a man is buried up to his waist with his hands tied in his back, while a woman is buried up to her neck with her hands also buried in the mud. If a person is able to free himself or herself from the whole while being stoned to death he or she will go free. Therefore, it is more possible for a man to free himself than a woman.

Reports issued by Amnesty International reveal that up to 73 ways of torturing have already been created and exercised by the ruling Mullahs in Iran.

All the authoritative international documentation and testimony gathered in the last 15 years of the life of the Islamic Regime in Iran is full of unceasing, systematic brutality, and oppression of masses, especially women. Thousands and thousands of men and women have been imprisoned, flogged, shot, hanged, or stoned to death, mostly under false accusations and all is done under the name of God and apparently in accordance with religious judicial system.

Today in Iran the marriage age for girls has been reduced to 9 years of age.

"The most suitable time for a girl to get married is the time when the girl can have her first menstrual period in her husband's house rather than her father's" Ayatollah Khomeini

"The specific task of women in this society is to marry and bear children. They will be discouraged from entering legislative, judicial, or what ever careers which may require decision making, as women lack the intellectual ability and discerning judgment required for theses careers." Ayatollah Mutahari, (one of the principal ideologues of the Islamic Republic of Iran) on "The Question of Veil".

Now at this time please standup and for one minute clap your hands and yell as laud as you can and repeat the words Dr. Homa Darabi said before her self-immolation:

Death to Tyranny! Long live Freedom!

No one minute of silence for women such as Ms. Meena and my sister Homa.

Dr. Parvin Darabi

From Dr. Homa Darabi Foundation

A non profit organization defending the rights of women & children

USA



Revolutionary Association of the Women of Afghanistan in order to express its solidarity with the Iranian women who are languishing under the tyranny of religio-fascist regime of Iran, allocated the covers of Payam-e-Zan (Persian No.38 and Urdu No.7) to Homa Darabi from Iran and Zhala Ejlal from Afghanistan who both set themselves ablaze in a gesture of protest against the domination of fundamentalists in Iran and Afghanistan.

The covers read:

Homa Darabi from Iran and Zhala Ejlal from Afghanistan were burnt in the flames of fundamentalist tyranny

May the flames of the Iranian and Afghan peoples' wrath against the religio-treacherous hangmen burn even more fiercely!

Unity among fundamentalists and the need of unity between freedom-loving forces

The Democratic Association of the Women of Pakistan salutes the struggles of RAWA and also pays tribute to it's martyred leader, Meena.

The struggle to liberate Afghanistan from the domination of fundamentalists and other anti-people and anti-democratic forces is a part of the democratic struggle of the people of Pakistan as well as of those living in other parts of the region. The fundamentalist reactionary forces provide support to one another all over the world and reactionaries from other parts of the globe also cooperate with them. Therefore, it's the obligation of the democratic elements to cooperate with each other.

We believe that the democratic forces will be the ultimate winners and the message of freedom-loving and open-minded people will prevail over fundamentalism.

Tasneem Minto

Democratic Association of the Women of Pakistan

Lahore - Pakistan

Hoping for a free and democratic Afghanistan

Members of Revolutionary Association of the Women of Afghanistan,

Honorable sisters,

The Organization of Human Rights and Basic Freedoms of Iran, keeping in view the historical and cultural solidarity of the Iranian nation with Afghan people, has been closely following the developments in Afghanistan. We have seen with great sorrow and concern the infighting and mass killings in the recent years, which have left Afghanistan in shambles and millions of our Afghani brothers and sisters are suffering untold miseries of homelessness.

We believe that, with the establishing of a free, democratic and populist setup in Iran, no effort will be spared to stop the present fratricide and solve the differences among the fighting groups. Restoration of peace and tranquillity and the beginning of a constructive era in Afghanistan is our hope. We also hope that our Afghani sisters get equal rights, freedom and respect in a democratic, free and progressive society. We wish you success in your struggle for freedom and democracy and pray to Almighty Allah to help you achieve your goals.

With best greetings

Dr Manoocheher Ganji,

The Secretary General of the Organization of Human Rights and Basic Freedoms for Iran

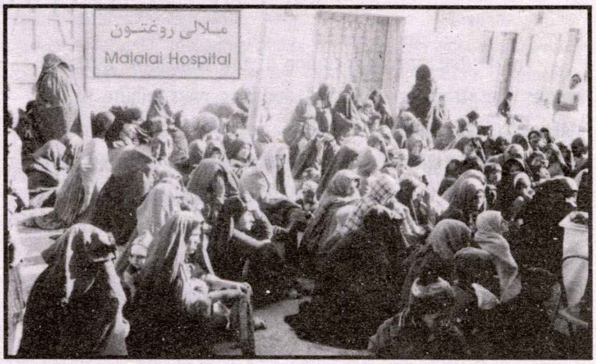
Down with

Fundamentalism

Long Live

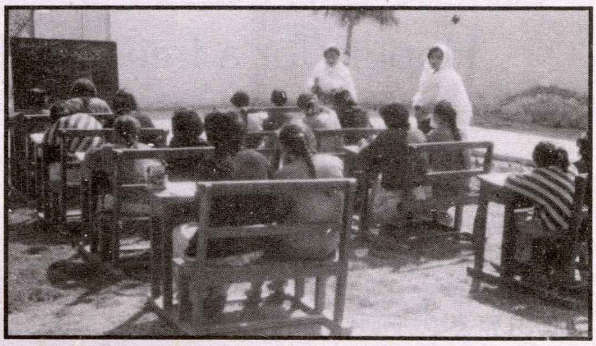
Freedom and Democracy!

RAWA's social activities



Malalai Hospital

To serve our female refugees and their children, RAWA founded Malalai Hospital in 1986 with a number of sections and wards. Financial constraints, however, has brought this hospital to the point of closure.



Watan Schools

In 1987, RAWA founded two schools (an elementary and one secondary) for the refugee children to impart basic knowledge and modern thoughts that the fundamentalists deny them. But it is painful to say that these schools are also on the verge of closure because of our acute financial problems.



Workplace

To enable refugee women to earn a living, especially those who are bread-winners of their families, RAWA has set up a workplace where these women are provided opportunities to learn skills like tailoring and embroidery. We are afraid that due to lack of funds, the fate of the workplace would not be different from that of the schools and hospital.

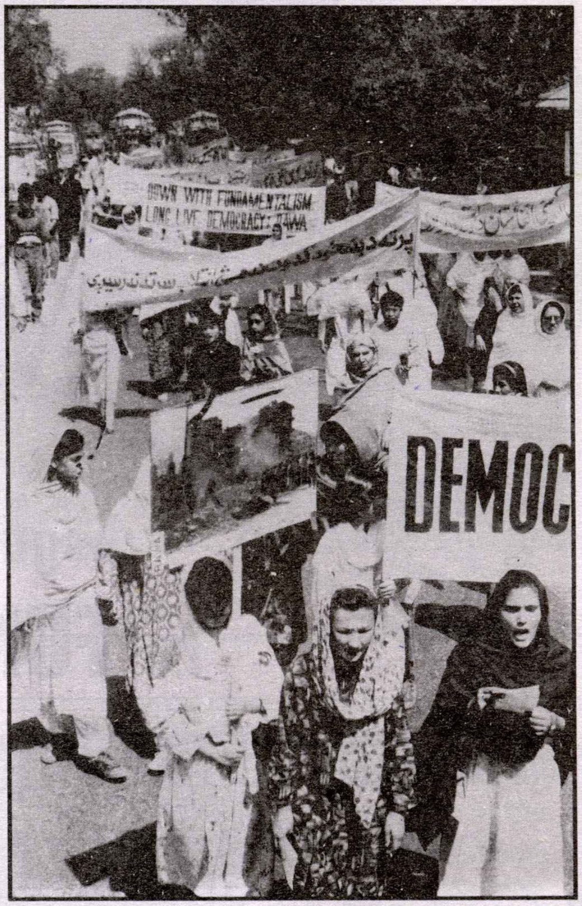
Financial sources of RAWA

The membership fee of our members and supporters in and outside Afghanistan is a major source of our finances. We also generate some from the sale of carpets and other traditional handicrafts. Our publications, cassettes and posters also contribute to our thin resources.However,we are finding it difficult to match with our ever increasing needs. That is why we have not been able to publish our journal regularly. Other activities of RAWA, such as holding seminars and conferences, staging demonstrations and undertaking lobbying for our rights have been severely hampered. We feel that the intensity and impact of Afghan women's activism for the cause of democracy, and against fundamentalism, would have been much wider and more tangible if we were not in financial dire straits.

RAWA flays both 27th and 28th of April

The Revolutionary Association of the Women of Afghanistan (RAWA) has always raised its voice against successive puppet regimes in Afghanistan. During the last four years we have come out onto the streets to register our protest through demonstrations against the puppet regime of Najibullah as well as those of the fundamentalists. Before the invasion of Kabul by fundamentalist warlords in April 1992, RAWA held demonstrations in different cities of Pakistan against the myrmidonian regime in Kabul which apart from being a clique in the hands of the now-defunct Soviets, violated basic human rights and committed all manner of crimes against the people of Afghanistan under high falutin slogans of 'people', 'workers' and 'toilers'. However we never let ourselves be misled by such gimmicks as they were nothing but the cheapest agents of Moscow.

The fundamentalist successors of the puppet regime have been exploiting the religious feelings and mentality of the people of Afghanistan by using Islam as a cover for their most inhuman, anti-woman and anti-democracy activities. They commit the most heinous crimes under the cloak of Islam and *Shariat*. Obscurantism, medievalism, arbitrary killings, torture, rape, looting and systematic terrorism are the basic principles of their self-made Islam.





The Plague of Fundamentalism

No AIDS cases reported in Afghanistan, thanks to Islam

KABUL (AFP) — No cases of the killer disease AIDS have yet been reported in Afghanistan, but the threat is taken seriously by health authorities in Kabul, a senior medical official told AFP Sunday.

"In Afghanistan, sexually transmitted HIV is not a major problem," said Dr Mohammad Daim Kakar of the World Health Organisation (WHO).

Kakar said that due to social constraints imposed by Islam, the disease AIDS, which is caused by the Human Immune-deficiency Virus (HIV), ought not to be sexually transmitted in Afghanistan.

"However we cannot say that HIV does not exis[t] in Afghanistan, merely that we have not identifi[ed] any cases yet," stressed Kakar.

He noted that because Acquired Im[mune] Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS) was prev... ...gional nei... ...ies whi... visited h... ...w...

in the system of accountability for the poten[tial] spread of HIV which leads to AIDS.

Kakar stressed that AIDS had to ... ously even in Afghanistan, not b... ual impropriety, but becaus... taminated syringes.

"Health workers ... sterilise the need... patient," Kaka... WHO...

The Frontier Post, December 2,1996

AIDS does not seem very much dreaded to a nation who has already been caught by the most disgusting and awful AIDS, i.e. **FUNDAMENTALISM.**

Taliban seize Stinger, cache of buried ex-govt weapons

KABUL (AFP) — Afghanistan's Taliban militia has seized an American made Stinger anti aircraft missile and a large cache of former government weapons that had been buried underground, Kabul officials said Saturday.

Officials at the Taliban controlled Radio Shariat told AFP that the shoulder-fired missile was captured on Friday at Qargah centre west of Kabul.

The US government gave Stingers to the muja... ing the latter year... 89 Jehad ... pying ... S...

Kabul on September 27, a black market for Stingers grew from unconfirmed reports that the United States would buy back unused missiles for 100,000 dollars each.

Radio Shariat also reported the capture of a large cache of munitions last Thursday fr... the house of Rabbani's ... Minister of Water and ... village north of Ka...

"This w...

heavy machineguns, ... fles and anti-person...

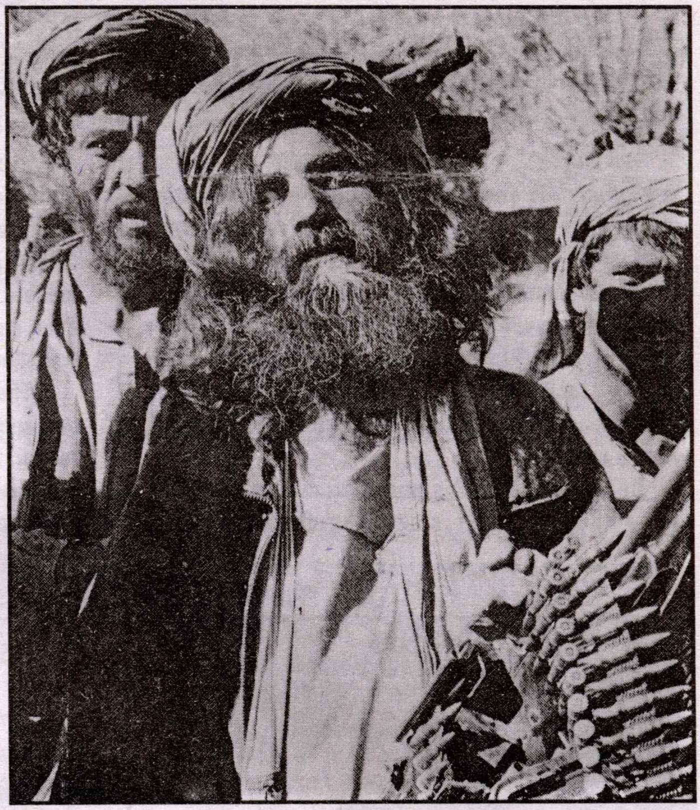
Telephon... equipmen... the ha... conti... sai...

The Frontier Post, December 15,1996

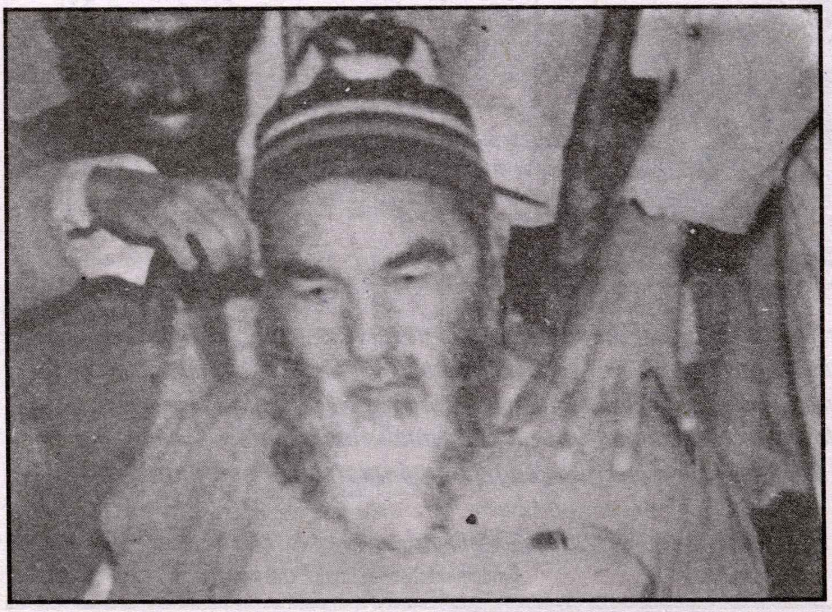
Afghanistan is not only a land where the Russian invaders have planted more than ten million anti-personel mines, but the odious fanatics have also turned it into a vast cache of different lethal weapons.

These semi-wild people who until yesterday were making a living on aliens and in mosques and know nothing about science, history, economy, geography etc. and who feel proud in taking meal and sleeping with Klashnikovs, are trying to seize political power in Afghanistan. Some of these weird people think that there is monarchy in the USA and Mr Bill Clinton is a king!

Is there a more unfortunate nation in the world where such creatures dare to claim themselves leaders of the people?



Taliban, the terrible



Abdul Ali Mazari, infamous lackey of the Iranian regime in the claws of the Taliban. The fate of Mazari is no comfort to the people of Afghanistan who can be satiated by nothing less than a similar fate for all fundamentalists, including the Taliban themselves.

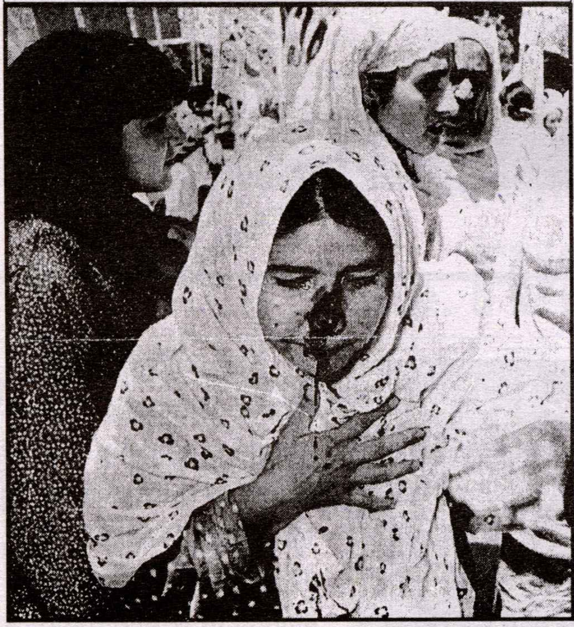
Fundamentalists are afraid of RAWA

Revolutionary Association of the Women of Afghanistan is the only independent organisation which has been courageously advocating and striving for the attainment of the human rights of Afghan women. Successive unpopular and anti-democratic governments seizing power one after the other over the past many decades have never been at a lack for pretexts, ranging from reaction to tradition and from culture to religion, for violating women's rights.

Because of RAWA's uncompromising and resolute anti-obscurantist stand, the fundamentalists are terrified of it. They are bent upon curbing our activities and crushing our organisation. As far back as February 1989, 'President' Rabbani named RAWA as an organisation trying to 'defame' *jehadi* leaders. Making his malicious inteutions clear, he even called upon the Afghan people to stop RAWA from "maligning and criticising" *jehadi* leaders.

The following few excerpts from the writings and speeches of these *jehadi* factions will give the reader an example of the slander, disinformation and vituperative language fundamentalists resort to when referring to RAWA:

THE GUARDIAN, APRIL 29,1993



A member of RAWA bleeds from the impact of police baton during a protest rally in Islamabad against the fundamentalists domination in Afghanistan.

Shahadat of *Hezb-e-Islami* Hekmatyar writes:

"Today, with great regret and sorrow, we must say that RAWA, because of the infighting among Mujahideen held a procession in Peshawar, a city which they claimed to be the centre of the fundamentalists. They wanted to malign jehadi leaders and mujahideen... at least we should take a lesson from the ***vicious statements of these whores*** *...The malicious statements of RAWA's spokeswoman must be an eye opener for those mujahideen and jehadi leaders who believe that they can rule Afghanistan exclusively."*

Shahadat*, May 2, 1995*

*"...**a number of prostitutes who are engaged in no other work but whoredom**, and anticipating slack business with the victory of Islam, held a demonstration on the 28th of April... they were accompanied by some two hundred lecherous Afghan and Pakistani hooligans who raised strange sounds and were **attempting to nestle up to the women in order to touch their bodies**...The objective of these **prostitutes** in raising the slogan of democracy is to **engage in unrestricted and unrestrained whoredom**..."*

Ittehad-e-Islami, mouthpiece of Abdul Rab Rasool Sayyaf's fundamentalist faction of the same name, May 2,1995

Fundamentalists are afraid of RAWA

The statement given by a Taliban spokes-man, Mulah Eid Mohammad in the daily *Wahdat* against our successful rally in Peshawar, 28 April 1995 reads:

"We warn the women demonstrators (RAWA) *to avoid such actions in the future... we accept those rights for women which Islam gives them but we won't allow women to work outside."*

The Daily Wahdat, May 3,1995



RAWA's demonstration in Islamabad, April 28,1994

"Revolutionary Association of the Women of Afghanistan is comprised of women ***who engage in selling their bodies for money****. Their* ***brothels*** (offices) *were first located in Quetta; they then shifted to Peshawar and Islamabad in order to maintain contact with women who, before the victory of the Islamic revolution, were in the pay of the Russians and then in the service of the communists. And by doing that,* ***they*** (RAWA) ***want to perpetuate prostitution and adultery...*** *These* ***whores*** *call the 28th of April (the day of victory of the Holy Jehad and the Islamic Revolution) a black day... The fact is that these women are mere playthings in the hands of colonialism and are being used for spreading AIDS... RAWA advocates living like beasts, in promiscuity and unchastity, because they strongly reject the wearing of hejab. Animals also live naked and have no concept of hejab. They (RAWA) admire westerners and consider not wearing the veil a mark of civilization. If not wearing a veil is a mark of civilization then animals are the most advanced and civilized creatures in the world.*

"Danishjoyan-e Mussulman" (Muslim students), a group of fundamentalist students, May 7,1995

JIA condemns RAWA rallies

PESHAWAR, April 29: Jamiat-e-Islami Afghanistan has said that some anti-Afghan elements were trying to bring bad reputation to Afghan leaders by arranging rallies through Afghan womenfolk.

A press release of the Jamiat issued here Saturday strongly condemned the rally of the Revolutionary Association of the Women of Afghanistan (RAWA) held on Friday and termed it a conspiracy of denouncing the Afghan groups. It claimed that it was due to the efforts of what it called Mujahideen groups, that Afghanistan witnessed liberation from the Red Army.

It appealed to Pakistan Government to discourage such gatherings aimed at character assassination of the Afghan leaders.

THE MUSLIM,
April 30, 1995

Jamaat-e-Islami Pakistan while defending its illegitimate Afghan blue-eyed boys, threatens RAWA as:

PESHAWAR: Jamaat-e-Islami has warned the 'westernised' Revolutionary Association of the Women of Afghanistan (RAWA) of serious consequences if it did not stop maligning the Afghan Mujahideen leaders.

A party spokesman in a statement condemned the utterances of a RAWA activist Saima Karimi in a recent interview with a national Urdu daily against Rabbani, Hekmatyar and Ahmad Shah Masoud and warned that this might lead to worst law and order situation in the province. He said supporters of various Afghan organisations resided in Pakistan and such statements could trigger confrontation among them.

The spokesman regretted that RAWA's suspicious activities had the support of Pakistan government which gave them a free hand to indulge in character assassination of Mujahideen leaders. He warned this could strain brotherly relations between Pakistan and Afghanistan. He said the government should take notice of such provocative statements otherwise the responsibility of any untoward occurrence would rest with the government.

The News*, June 22,1995*

Fundamentalists are afraid of RAWA

Latif Pedram a *Khadi*-turned-*jehadi*, used to praise the Russian aggressors and their puppet regimes before April 1992 like a true sycophant. Through his writings as well as his obnoxious activities he would run propaganda for the Najib regime. After the fall of the puppet regime, he made a U-turn and began to eulogize the fundamentalist criminals. He not only welcomed the fundamentalists to Kabul but also began to write as one of their devoted pressmen in many retrogressive papers to sling mud at RAWA and "*Payam-e-Zan*". In a writing under the title "And those procurer women" published in the Kabul Weekly, he writes against RAWA:

*"You are westernized and you can roam in the modernized lands, modern casinos and discotheques and have a cup of wine!! **You like to be naked in front of people**. If **you procurers** be out of Afghanistan nothing will be missed. Your message is for those women who go dancing rock`n'roll in nightclubs and search every corner to get contraceptive pills and also for those who wants to **swim without bikini** and are trying their best to **shape their legs and hips to be more suggestive**."*

***Kabul Weekly**, May 1994*



A scene of a function on occasion of of the 7th Martyrdom Anniversary of Meena, Islamabad, Feb.4,1994

"Fundamentalists are also sworn enemies of our people. They are making troubles in our anti-Russian resistance. In a word, to fight against the Russiam aggressors is inseparable from struggle against the fundamentalists. Nevertheless for the time being we should give priority to the former", Meena carved the RAWA's programme.

THE BUSY WORLD International, October,1993

Taliban criticised for anti-women policies

Revolutionary Association of the Women of Afghanistan (RAWA) Tuesday condemned Taliban for taking oppressive measures against womenfolk after capturing Kabul.

Taliban are pushing Afghanistan into Dark Ages of the past by restricting women to their houses, Jamila Habib, a RAWA activist, said.

In a press statement Jamili said instead of rehabilitation and resolution of war-battered Afghan, Taliban were adding to their woes.

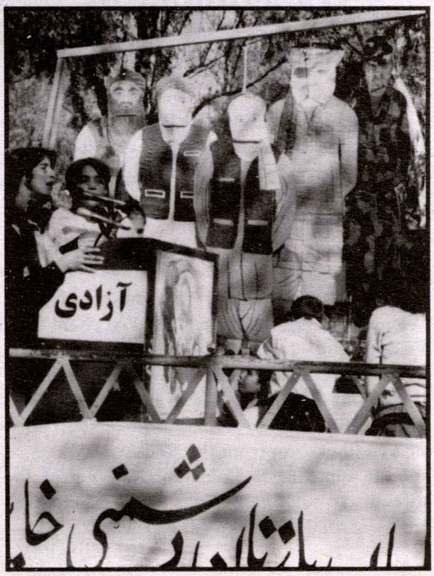
She also condemned the way president Dr Najibullah was summarily executed by Taliban after overrunning the Afghan capital last week.

Jamila said women were more than 50 per cent of the Afghan population and denying them their role in the development of Afghanistan would retard the process.

The oppressive policies of Taliban, she said, would block the progress of Afghanistan which has yet to see peace and harmony.

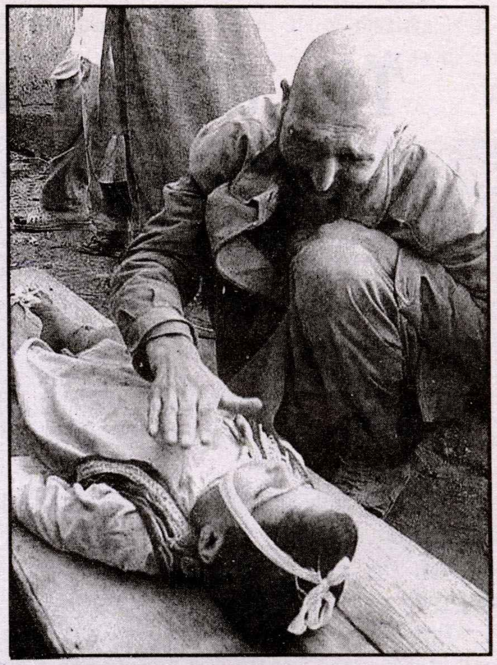
Jamila said Taliban contrary to their previous claims were imposing new war on Afghanistan instead of working for peace.

***The Frontier Post**, October 2,1995*



RAWA's demonstration in Islamabad. Dec.10,1996





After looking at these pictures, a Persian poet said:

"The inherent capability of the Persian language to express the utmost depths of feeling may be at my command, but I am utterly at loss at describing the fathomless sorrow of these devastated victims of the fundamentalists. If I try, it can be my last words written in BLOOD."





The difference between Taliban and *jehadi* fundamentalists

In our opinion, the Taliban and other *jehadi* fundamentalist cliques of Rabbani, Sayyaf, Masoud, Hekmatyar and their like are brothers in arms. They are all of the same hue, because:

All of them have a Klashnikov in one hand and the Quran in the other to kill, intimidate, detain and mutilate our people arbitrarily.

All are violently misusing Islam, interpret the Quran according to their own personal whims and political interests, and use religion as a cover to hide their heinous crimes.

They are all proud of stoning men and women to death, cutting their limbs, public executions and punishing the people without trial in an authorised court.

Educational affairs during more than four years of the *jehadi* fundamentalists' rule were not better than what we find today under the Taliban. All of them are equally hostile to science and culture. If Taliban simply close the doors of all schools and name Radio Kabul as so-called Radio *Shariat*, the Rabbani and other bands of *jehadi* fundamentalists were not different. They called schools "the doors of hell" and termed radio as "devil's box" and TV as "Satan's mirror"! Book burning ceremonies were held in Kabul and elsewhere under the personal supervision of the infamous Seddiqu Chakari, the so-called minister of information and culture of Rabbani's administration.

All of them are not indigenous and are dependent on foreign countries. The Taliban too cannot last long without foreign support and the same holds true for other *jehadi* fundamentalists as well.

They are not only incapable of providing any economic relief to the Afghan people but are also unwilling to take any step that benefits the masses. The conditions are so disastrous in Afghanistan that people are forced to sell their children just to save them from dying of starvation in cold winters. Unprecedented abuses of human rights were committed on mass scale under the domination of both types of fundamentalists.

On the international scene, both have lost their reputation. If the Taliban arrest the UN officials, Rabbani and Masoud's henchmen raided the embassy of Pakistan killing at least one and leaving behind many injured, including the Pakistani ambassador. Rabbani was also engaged in sending his agents to Pakistan for terrorist activities.

Although Taliban's hostility against our women goes far beyond in intensity than what they had been experiencing during the rule of Rabbani & Co., it must be noticed that it was Mr Sibghatullah Mujaddedi who



Taliban



Jehadis

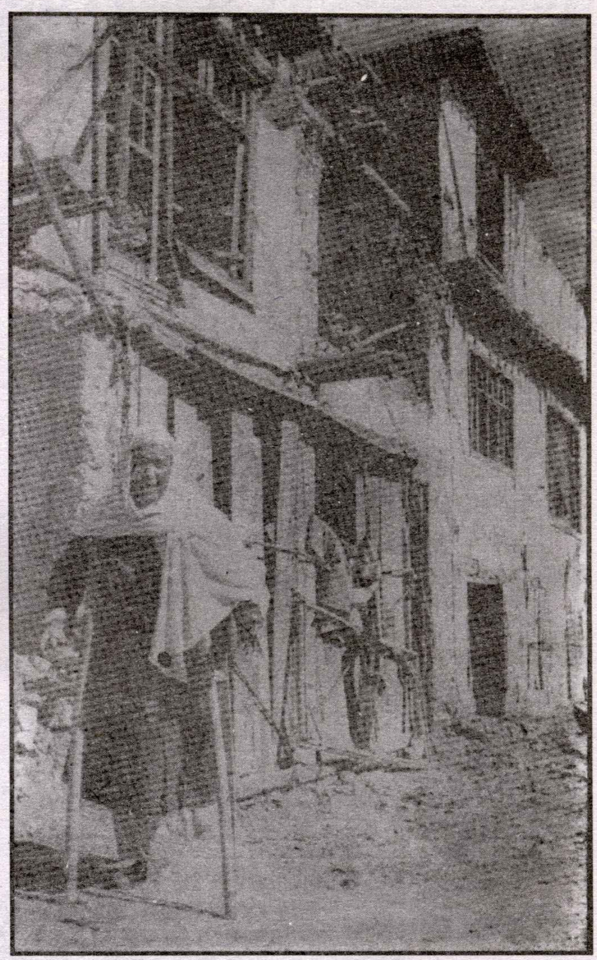
instead of paying heed to any of the numerous serious problems of Afghan people, raised hue and cry for imposition of "Islamic *hejab*". It was in the light of such injunctions that Rabbani & Co. too started to ban women from appearing on TV and working in the offices.

Both have brought a bad name to Afghanistan by cultivating and smuggling opium and its products around the world.

Of course, presently the rate of murdering, raping young girls and boys, and looting houses by the Taliban has been somehow less than *jehadi* fundamentalists; but the degree of brutalities of Taliban only against Afghan women is enough to understand the bigotry and fanaticism of this group. They physically force people to pray and destroy audio/video cassettes as *haram* (forbidden), and regard hearing even the sound of a woman's steps as a sin! It is quite likely that if Taliban succeed to consolidate their position all over the country, they will become even more cruel, ferocious and rigid in the name of *Shariat*.

Ironically, the former *jehadi* rulers are now trying their best to present themselves as more 'civilized' than the Taliban. They had their own women speaking out in defence of their fundamentalist bosses, to justify their crimes against humanity. The Taliban, on the other hand, do not even pretend -- at least for the time being -- to be 'civilized'. They do not hesitate to issue commands of absurd nature like the one which orders that no human-being should be photographed!

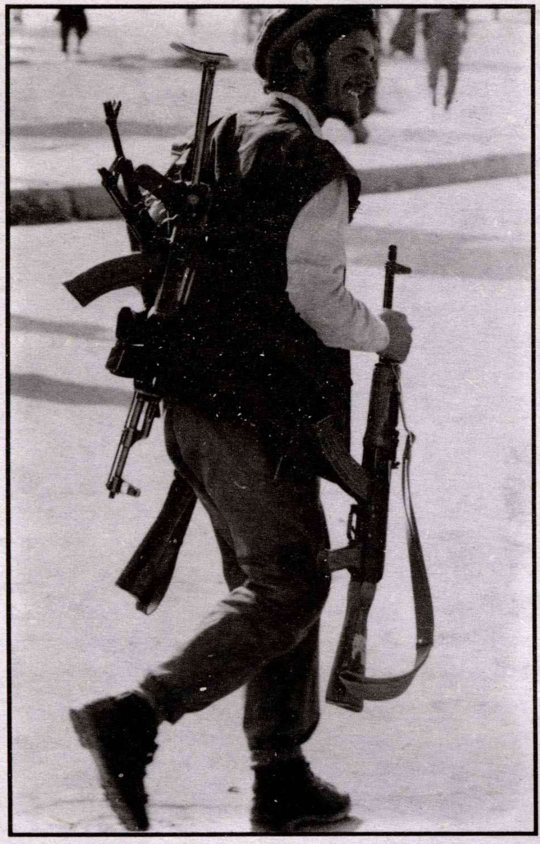
In view of what we said, it is easy to understand that the current infighting among different types of fundamentalists is nothing but a bloody war of Islamic bandits over booty. And since they are controlled by their foreign masters, the conflicting interests of these patron countries are also playing havoc with the fate of the Afghan people. The role of these masters is an important factor in the continuity of the war to which there seems to be no end in sight.



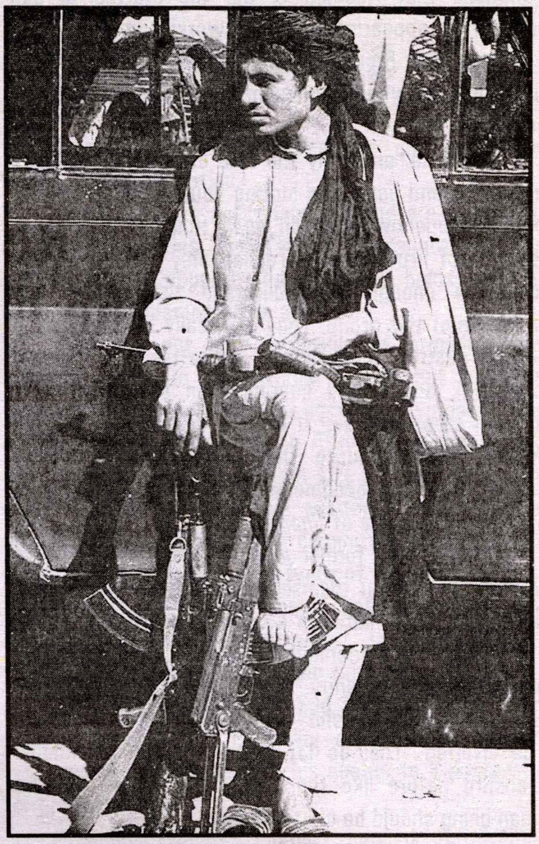
A woman enduring with a lost leg in a rocket explosion beside her destroyed and looted home in Kabul

Long live national unity against fundamentalism!

... and both are the enemies of our people



Jehadi



Talib

These two species of fundamentalists have plundered and destroyed the material entity of our nation. Maybe the Taliban arrived at this infamous feast of pilferage and destruction somewhat late but they have outdone their predecessors in pushing our people back into the depths of foregone centuries. The material bones of our country have been picked clean by the fundamentalists who came before the Taliban; they can only show their capacity for excellence by staging orgies of ignorance and vandalism.

But the day is not too far when the protest cries of our mortified people will shake and bring down the arrogant and blood-sucking tyrannical fundamentalists.

Sit-in demonstration against the terrorism of the *Hezb-e-Islami*

The atrocities of *jehadi* leaders are not a new thing for the Afghan people. The crimes of these bandits are not restricted to the last five years only; they have been engaged in such anti-people activities even before the withdrawal of Soviet forces. After their emergence during the anti-Soviet resistance period, they developed habits of committing crimes against innocent, unarmed people. One of their main target groups were, of course, the intellectuals. The fundamentalists, particularly the Islamic Party of Hekmatyar, have abducted and then killed hundreds of Afghan freedom-loving intellectuals in Peshawar and other cities of Pakistan. *Jamat-e-Islami* of Pakistan and other authorities of our host country have also been providing help and support to these murderers in committing their heinous crimes.

It was on February 20, 1995 that, for the very first time in the 15-year old history of the fundamentalists' reign of terror, a group of women and children relatives of the victims of these terrorists staged a sit-in demonstration in front of the Interior Ministry of Pakistan in Islamabad. They distributed among the journalists a list of over 40 Afghan patriots killed by Hekmatyar's party.

Amnesty International has also partly exposed a number of murders committed by the fundamentalists.



Relatives of freedom-loving intellectuals killed by Hekmatyar's Hezb-e-Islami *staged a sit-in demonstration in front of Parliament House on February 20, 1995, Islamabad*

Abdul Fatah Wadoud, a 47-year-old agricultural expert with the World Food Programme office in Peshawar, was reportedly detained on 3 September 1989 by *Hezb-e Islami* (Hekmatyar) soon after leaving his office to visit an acquaintance. A representative of the group reportedly told the family that his release was going to be "very difficult", but he did not say where he was held.

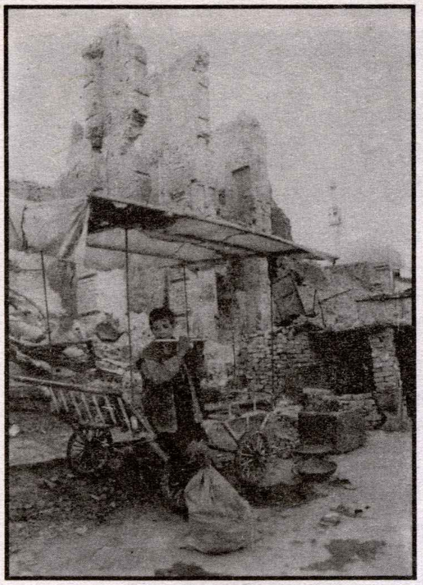
...

Sultan Ahmad was reportedly detained on 24 January 1989 by the forces of *Hezb-e-Islami* (Hekmatyar) as he was leaving his house in Peshawar. Then 34, he was a lecturer at Kabul University. In the 1980s he had been imprisoned under the government of President Najibullah. When he was released in 1988 he left for Peshawar.

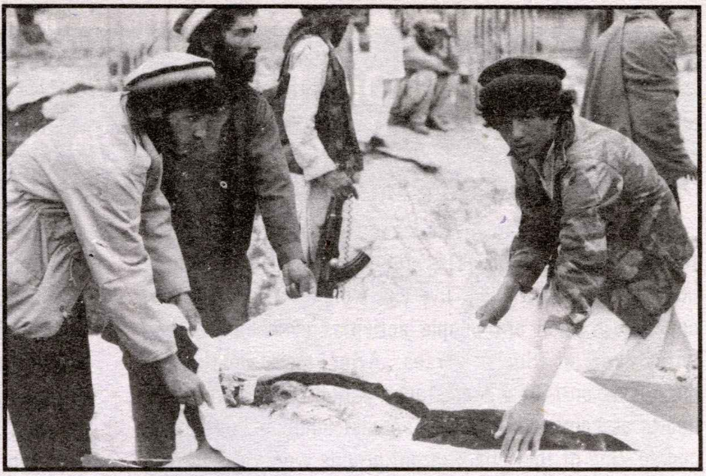
....

Abdul Jabbar Ashraf was last seen in November 1987 during a visit to Pakistan. He was an Afghan Mujahideen commander known for his anti-fundamentalist views. He had reportedly been due to meet *Hezb-e-Islami* (Hekmatyar) officials on the day he went missing. He is believed to be held in Shamshatoo prison, although his family has never received any news of his whereabouts.

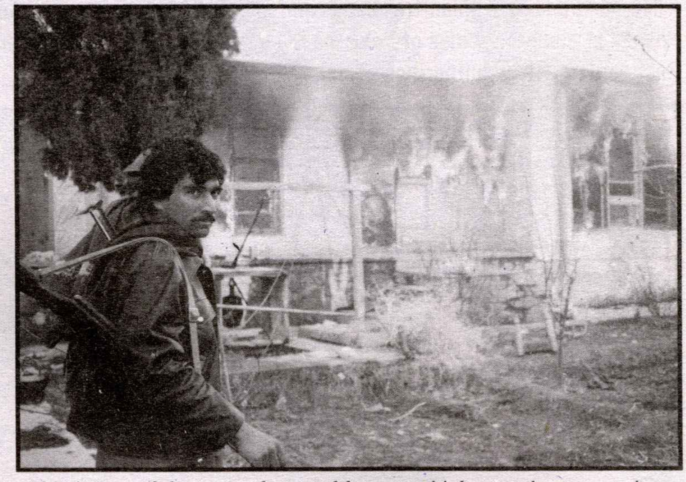
AFGHANISTAN, International responsibility for human rights disaster, AI



Devastated Kabul



A decomposed body from a mass-grave out of tens of such graves in Kabul.



This is one of the many thousand houses which were burnt to ashes during rocketing of Kabul by the fundamentalist forces.

The infamous "Champions of Islam" who speak only in the language of guns,

in action



Taliban militia guard over a dead body of a person who was executed by them in Khost Province.

Chinese government lose ground as a broker between 'Afghan government' and Pakistan

Our people have not forgotten that China was the first government in the world to invite Gulbuddin Hekmatyar to Beijing when the traitor was acting as 'foreign minister' of Afghanistan. That step had earned China the hatred and anger of our people. In fact, the Chinese government, has incessantly extended its unconditional support to the most fascist and dirtiest forces in Afghanistan.

According to international press reports, Abdul Raheem Ghaforzai, a so-called former Foreign Minister of Afghanistan, who visited Beijing said on May 1, 1996: "Chinese have said that they will try to persuade Pakistan to resume its relations with the government of Afghanistan and try to find out a peaceful solution to end the infighting of Afghanistan." The Chinese government could deal with different criminal gangs howsoever it wishes, but it would have to face embarrassment on the day when our people's wrath will turn the fundamentalists into ashes and establish a free and democratic government in Afghanistan. Also, how the Chinese government will justify its support for the fundamentalist traitors and its role in perpetuating our people's miseries on that fine day?

***Payam-e-Zan*, No.44**

Zahir Shah or fundamentalists?

A poll conducted in Afghan refugee camps in Pakistan by the late Prof. Sayed Bahauddin Majrooh in 1987 provided irrefutable proof to all and sundry regarding the esteem in which the fundamentalism-scourged people of Afghanistan held the so-called Afghan *jehadi* leaders.

The poll was conducted at a time when the fundamentalists were being lionized by Western media and touted as champions of Islam and "freedom fighters", and not a few people inside and outside Afghanistan thought of them as anything but "knights in shining armour", fighting for a sacrosanct cause. However what kind of response the mortally scourged Afghan people will give to fundamentalists of all Taliban and non-Taliban shades, were a similar poll to be conducted today?

Zahir Shah most popular among Afghans

....

Recording their comments with late Syed Bahauddin Majrooh almost all of them were under tremendous pressure of the Jehadic forces and personnel of secret agencies of Pakistan.

At the time, there were around three million Afghan refugees residing in 249 camps in Pakistan and the survey teams visited 106 camps. In these camps, Prof. Syed Bahauddin Majrooh interviewed 2287 male refugees and after random scrutiny, the survey report was focused on the comments and opinions of 2000 people.

However, to the question No.4, the interviewed people gave surprising answers which are lessonable to the Jehadic leadership not only in 1987 but at present when majority of the people including Mujahideen have asked sorry for their role in Jehad.

Amongst 2000 interviewed people, 1433 people said that former King Mohammed Zahir Shah was the national leader and he should be given a chance to rule Afghanistan. Only nine persons amongst 2000 favoured Pir Gillai, Maulvi Nabi, Rabbani, Hikmatyar and others to rule Afghanistan all together. While 35 out of 2000 had named one among the resistance commanders like Ahmad Shah Masud, Abdul Haq, Farid, Haqani and others to rule the country.

***The Nation**, March 31,1994*

JUST A CROCODILE TEAR

Hekmatyar regrets destruction of Kabul

Kabul, Aug 11 (AFP)
Afghanistan's new prime minister Gulbaddin Hekmatyar on Sunday spoke for the first time of his sorrow at returning to Kabul to find the once-grand capital in ruins. "I was aware of the situation before I returned here for the first time in 21 years, but of course it was very sad to see our capital in ruins," Hekmatyar said in an exclusive interview with AFP. "It is a matter of regret to myself and all Afghans to see their capital like this as we had hoped that at least Kabul would be safe although large portions of the country were destroyed," he added just six weeks after taking over as premier.

THE MUSLIM, *August 12,1996*



Payam-e-Zan photo

Devastated Kabul

Rival militants clash caused losses

The clashes between forces of Hizb-e-Islami of Hekmatyar and Jamiat-e-Islami in eastern parts of Kabul city Tuesday which continued till Wednesday morning have caused heavy losses in men and material, reports radio Tehran.

THE MUSLIM, *September 17,1993*

The contemptible fundamentalists go mad when talk about "Islamic hejab" but, their own "diplomats" allow themselves to drop their trousers in front of women!

Afghan diplomat strips in front of woman neighbour



Sultan Mahmmod Dehdar first secretary of the Afghanistan Embassy, India dropped his trousers in front of an Indian woman

A senior diplomat of the Afghanistan embassy allegedly stripped in front of a woman neighbour in Anand Niketan last night, triggering off embarrassing the police and diplomatic activity.

The neighbour is screaming for action against the drunk diplomat and the police says it is hampered by the diplomatic immunity that the first secretary enjoys.

The 'flasher' diplomat narrowly escaped a thrashing from the residents who surrounded him after the woman raised an alarm around midnight. The crowd was not impressed by his diplomatic immunity, but chose not to shed blood.

Southwest district police said that the first secretary of the Afghanistan embassy had been in a drinking session with a friend last night. When his friend finally left around midnight, the diplomat - whose name the police did not disclose - stepped out of his house and entered the compound of his neighbour's house. The woman was alone at her house, save for a maidservant since her husband was away.

The diplomat rang the door-bell, and in response the woman peered out of the window to confirm the identity of her midnight caller. On spoting her neighbour, the lady presumed that he wanted some help and opened the door after asking her maid to accompany her.

To her shock and horror, the diplomat proceeded to take down his trousers, and flashed himself while swaying in a drunken stupor.

An alarm was raised by the woman and her maid, and in minutes neighbours came to her aid to see the drunken diplomat still standing at the front door, half naked and unable to realise what was happening. A neighbour dialed 100 and a PCR van rushed to the spot even as neighbours started castigating the diplomat for his behaviour.

The police has registered a case against the diplomat for criminal trespass and indecent exposure offences punishable by imprisoned and fine. The police however said they were hampered by the diplomatic immunity accorded to embassy officials, which prevented his arrest.

***Mid Day**, New Delhi, August 17, 1995*

5 recovered from private jail of Hekmatyar in Karachi

Karachi, Sep 2: Engineer Gulbadin Hekmatyar's representative for Sindh has been arrested along with two other persons on charges of 'maintaining mini-private jail' in the city, posh Gulshan-e-Iqbal locality.

Haji Ali Jan, who is stated to be the representative and leader of *Hezb-e-Islami* Afghanistan, was arrested along with his two other lieutenants namely Abdul Razaq and Syed Qamaruddin from bungalow No.P-40, Block-4, Gulshan-e-Iqbal which reportedly is also house and office of *Hizb-e-Islami*.

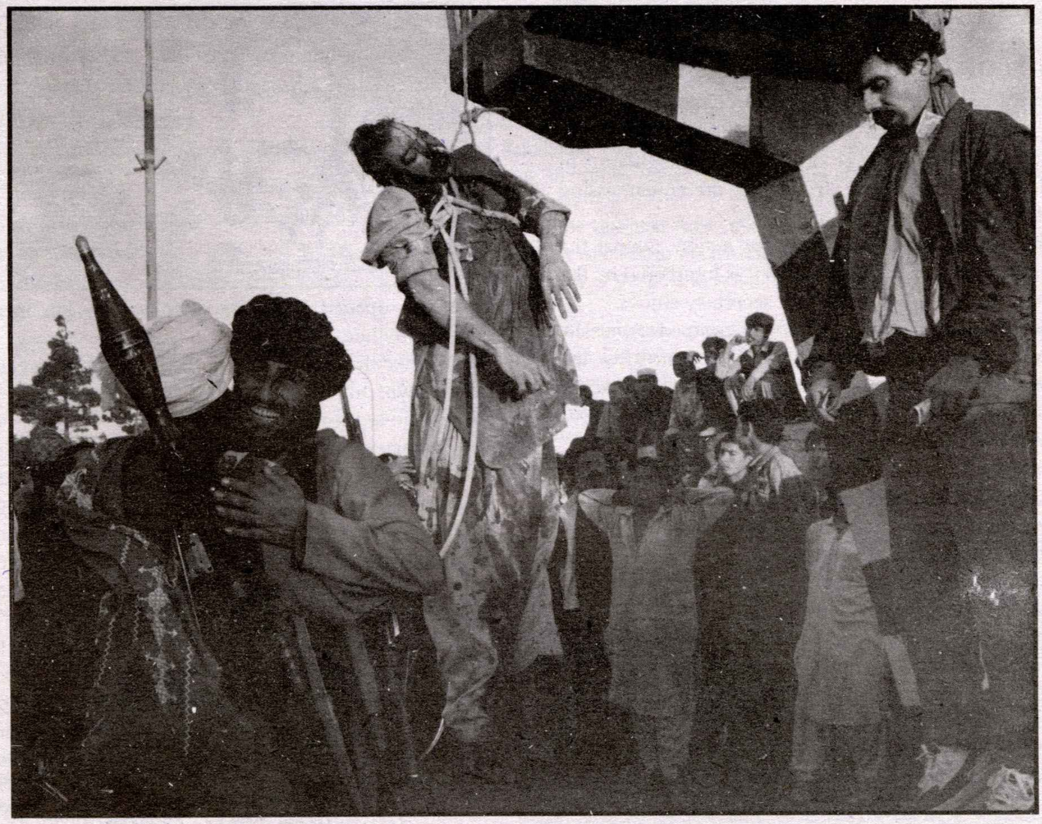
Police said that they received information, that neighbouring residents heard cries and yelling from the said bungalow and suspicion had begun cropping up that some people are being tortured in the house regularly.

A police party of the Gulshan-e-Iqbal raided the said house last night and got freed five chained people, who are stated to be all Afghan Nationals. The captives freed were identified by the police as Abdul Razaq, Abdul Baqi, Abdul Jalil, Abdul Rehman and Habibullah.

Reports indicate the several people have undergone punishments at the "mini-private jail" under the tribal Jirga system.

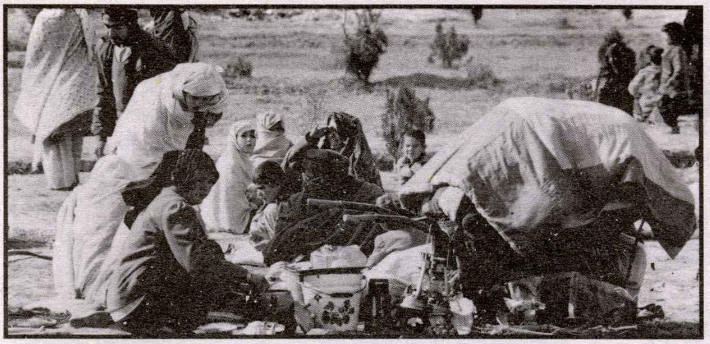
THE MUSLIM
September 3, 1995

Inhuman execution of a murderer puppet



Najib was an agent of KGB and headed the notorious KHAD agency before assuming the post of the President. During his tenure as the KHAD chief, he was responsible for torturing and killing thousands of people. He targeted intellectuals in particular. According to his brother Saddiq Rahi's book, titled "Do you know Najib?", he was morally a very lewd and characterless person. All Afghans wanted Najib to be brought for a trial in the court of the people and punished according to the decree of people. But during the assault of the Taliban on Kabul they killed him and his brother in a very brutal and disgusting way. People question the validity of this cruel act, not because Najib was any better than Taliban, but because of the manner in which he was killed.

It is very clear that the Taliban killed him to achieve some of their own political ends just as in the past their other fundamentalist brothers, including Masood, used to protect Najib for their own vested interests. Like Najib, these Talib and non-Talib fundamentalists are also the main destroyers of our country. All of them kill our people and rape women. They are all chips of the same block - religious-fascists, mediaeval-minded, rapists and murderers. Could it be guaranteed that if, and when, Taliban consolidate their position they won't kill every body else they don't like, as they treated Najib?



Fundamentalists infighting his led to the displacement of thousands of helpless civilians.

Afghan refugees being maltreated: claims NGO

Peshawar, Jan 15: Director of the cooperation Center for Afghanistan (CCA), Sarwar Hussaini, has alleged that hundreds of Afghans fleeing from Afghanistan to this side of the border in search of peace are being maltreated and apprehended by police under baseless charges. He said the law enforcing agencies were extracting money, from the Afghan Nationals.

Addressing a press conference here Wednesday afternoon. He said about 301 Afghanis had been made prisoners and sent behind the bars in different jails of NWFP. Two female Afghans are also imprisoned in Mardan district jail, he said.

He said that besides these prisoners, the CCA also collected details about 700 Afghans disappeared during 1994 factional war. Names of these peopie had been handed over to the UNHCR authorities for further action. He said that thousands of Afghans have been separated from their near and dear ones. He urged the Pakistani authorities announce a general amnesty for the imprisoned Afghans.

... he regretted that after entering Pakistan, the Afghans were being maltreated by law enforcing agencies.

THE MUSLIM, *January 16,1996*

It is just the tip of the iceberg. Due to the threat and pressure or their own conservatism, most of the NGOs do not like to disclose the facts against the fundamentalists.

SERVE that serves on a 'condition'

PESHAWAR - a group of Afghan refugee women Sunday alleged that officials of the SERVE, on NGO working for the welfare of refugees, were extending help to only those beautiful women who could accept the "condition" laid down by them.

"It is an open secret and the helpless refugees know as to how the SERVE NGO was serving the helpless women", said two Afghan women who visited Peshawar Press Club and narrated their nerve-racking story in the presence of newsmen. The sobbing women in their choked voice said as to how they were treated in the office of SERVE by their own countrymen and how they were persuaded to get assistance from their British boss.

Two Afghans namely Wali and Baz Muhammad, they alleged, had their own criteria for giving assistance to Afghan women. These Afghans persuaded Afghan women to accept the "condition" and they totally refused to provide aid to them when they refused their offer". First, they asked to visit their office on holiday. "When we visited the office along with our male members the officials became infuriated and objected to the presence of male members. We do not understand as to why they were cursing us for doing so" they said, adding "the people present on the occasion informed us about the whole story", they deplored.

Expressing grave concern over the ongoing injustice with the respectable women in such organisations, they appealed to world bodies, international agencies and women bodies, RAWA and others working for the women cause to visit the recently established camps and probe the assistance procedure of the organisation like SERVE and get rid the helpless women of their miseries.

The Frontier Post, *January 27,1997*



Afghan refugees sitting at Chowk Yadgar Peshawar, hoping for alms.

Afghan refugees influx escalates



Pakistani Malitia with stick in their hands maltreating those Afghans who crossing over to Pakistan

NASIR BAGH, (PESHAWAR), Dec 13 (AFP): Camps in northwest Pakistan are overflowing with people fleeing the Afghan civil war.

After a long lull, the influx of refugees became a flood again after the Taliban Islamic militia took Kabul in September. Each day, about 100 families cross the border, according to the UNHCR.

Most of the camp is composed of dried mud homes built by the occupants on the same land which had held the tents where they were initially housed. Some of the refugees have been there since 1979, when their country was invaded by Soviet troops.

Many arrived with nothing and live in tents made of old blankets and pieces of cloth. The winter cold is now a danger in this plain at the foot of the mountains.

One infant died from the cold earlier this week, leading the UNHCR to decide to furnish real tents to the new arrivals.

Compounding the problems for the refugees is the growing unhappiness of the local population who see the installation of thousands of Afghans as competition in a period of economic crisis.

According to UNHCR sources, there are around 1.3 million Afghan refugees in the North-west Frontier Province.

THE MUSLIM, *December 14,1996*

And it will go on and on and on....

Oppositioin prisoners threatened with hanging

Masud, Dostum plan to oust Taliban from Kabul

PESHAWAR, Jan 7: Kabul's former military strongman, Commander Ahmed Shah Masud and northern warlord Gen Rashid Dostum met secretly for more than two hours to shun their differences and work out a comprehensive ... ousting Taliban f... a more affective strategy for recapturing the Afghan capital which fell to the Taliban movement on September 2, 1996. N... further detail were availab... It is relevant to mention ... Gen Dostum has bee... from Command... Masud to ... against the ...

THE MUSLIM Jan.8,1997

Pak-Iran bid to evolve consensus on Afghanistan

TEHRAN: Pakista... Sahibzada Ya... on Wedn... meet parliamentary speak... Nategh Nuri and Preside... Hashemi Rafsanjani durin... day visit to Iran.

Taliban seized the ... Kabul on Septembe... taken control of ... country, main... appeared ... bani ...

THE NEWS Jan.16,1997

Afghan moot urges immediate ceasefire

TEHRAN (AFP) — Delegates to an Afghan peace conference here on Sunday called for an "immediate ceasefire" and the opening of ... between rival factions ... country.

The Frontier Post Jan.27,1997

Taliban advance towards Panjshir Valley

AFP

CHARIKAR: The Taliba... advanced north ... Panjshir ... turbing" as it ... working ...

THE NEWS Jan.19,1997

Heavy fighting in western Afghanistan

PESHAWAR, Jan 15: Fierce fighting erupted in western Afghanistan between the forces of Uzbek Warlord Gen Rashid Dostum and Taliban militia caus... ing substantial loss to both si... However, no change was r... ed in the positions held b... sides previously.

This was stated ... ever battle bet... factions duri... Ramazan ...

THE MUSLIM Jan.16,1997

Opposition troops routed in student militia blitz

Taliban recapture Bagram air base, Charikar

ISLAMABAD, Jan 16: The Taliban militia on Thursday ... captured the key airbase of Bagram and an important town of Charikar, north of Kabul. Taliban made the significant ... A Taliban spokesman in Peshawar, Mirza Mohammad informed The Muslim that the fighting erupted at about 5 am when the student militia launched a massive ground attack on Bagram airfield. He said the Taliban ... control of the hills over... Bagram Air... the opposition parties ... for escalation of hosti... fierce fighting ragin... north. They said the ... had never been ... hostilities and ... efforts ...

THE MUSLIM Jan.17,1997

'Hezb-i-Islami not part of alliance against Taliban'

Bureau Report

PESHAWAR: Hezb-i-Islami has denied that it is part of the military alliance against Taliban militia. ...

THE NEWS February 1,1997

Taliban take two more districts

KABUL (AFP) — The Taliban religious militia claimed Sunday to have captured two districts in the strategic Ghorband valley in northern Afghanistan and that ... soldiers ... switched sides ...

Tehran moot calls for ceasefire

Taliban claim capturing strategic valley

...ARY 26: Taliban move... Afghanistan says ... have taken co... strategically ... continuing. People in the town of G...

THE MUSLIM Jan.27,1997

Thousands flee Charikar as Taliban, coalition trade fire

CHARIKAR: Thousands of refugees poured into Kabul on Tuesday as the Taliban and coalition forces exchanged artillery fire on the outskirts of northern Afghan town of Charikar.

Inside the city, scores of buses were parked in long queues as residents loaded their children and belongings, while those who could not afford the fares began leaving on foot despite freezing temperatures.

Just three kilometres to th... artillery belongin... militia and ... said Qeemat Khan, a Talib... A majority of the refugee... nic Tajiks. Some of the... were told by the Taliban ... city so that the militia ... feel secure. Ta... year stag... northe... Ho...

THE NEWS Jan.22,1997

The Frontier Post Jan.27,1997

10 people die daily due to cold, hunger across Badghis

... convoys sent to help displaced people ...

THE NEWS January 28,1997

Hundreds head for Kabul

CHARIKAR, Afghanistan — Hundreds of ...ees were headed for Kabul Friday from Charikar, capital of Parwan province to the ... fleeing fierce ba... Taliban ...

The Frontier Post Jan.18,1997



Rabbani and Hekmatyar seeking help from the Iranian regime. Tehran, January 25,1997

.... And the struggle against the fundamentalist tyranny will get momentum

The flames of the women's wrath

TEHRAN: At least 20 women have been arrested in the western Afghanistan city of Herat during protests against the rule of the Taliban Islamic militia, Iran's state radio said.

The women were rounded up during public demonstrations against the militia and transferred to prisons, it said.

Most shops in the city near the Iranian border stayed closed despite warning from the authorities to open, it added.

Iranian state radio reported Monday that the Taliban had imposed a curfew on Herat following the weekend protests against the Islamic militia. - AFP

The News, *December 26,1996*

Taliban and the angry mob

On Feb.23,1996 in the Mesgaran Market, Herat a Russian jeep carrying 6 armed Taliban collided with a motorcycle with two people at it. The motorcyclist and his friend were wounded but the Taliban wanted to go with out any attention to them. However, the angry mob of the area, while blocking the Taliban's way, had carried the two injured to the nearest hospital and with their empty hands turned the Taliban's jeep upside down and set it ablaze. The Taliban succeeded to escape from the grip of the enraged people by firing in the air in order to disperse them. The next day a group of heavily armed-Taliban come and detained a number of local people.

***Payam-e-Zan**, No. 43*

Kunduz protesters turn violent

Kabul: Troops fired in the air to dispers a crowd of angry protesters who stoned a provincial governor's house and Red Cross offices in a demonstration over price rises, sources said Wednesday. The violence broke out last Monday in Kunduz, a northern town controlled by forces loyal to ousted president Burhan-uddin Rabbani.

An unspecified number of demonstrators stoned the Kunduz provincial governor's house. Troops fired in the air to disperse the demonstrators, the sources said.

The News, *January 16,1997*



A RAWA's demonstration in Islamabad on December 10,1996 against the domination of the fundamentalists in Afghanistan.



The coverage of RAWA's activities in the Urdu and Pushto press of Pakistan
اسلامي حکومت خلاف په اسلام اباد کښې د «راوا» جلوس
افغانستان میں قیام امن کے لئے بیرونی مداخلتوں کا بند ہونا ضروری ہے۔
افغانستان میں اسلامی حقوق پامال کیے جارہے ہیں
جمعیت انقلابی خواتین کا مظاہرہ
طالبان حکومت کیخلاف
افغان خواتین کا مظاہرہ
May 30, 1995
April 29, 1993
July 17, 1996
June 23, 1996
April 28, 1996
May 15- 21, 1995
30 Apr. 1993
April 16, 1996
April 1, 1996
Dec. 11, 1996
April 29, 1995
April, 17, 1996
April 29, 1994
April 30, 1993

The coverage of RAWA's activities in the Pakistani press



The coverage of RAWA's activities in the Pakistani press

RAWA vows to stamp out fundamentalists

BUREAU REPORT

PESHAWAR—Revolutionary Association of the Women of Afghanistan (RAWA) celebrated the March 8 International Women Day with pledge to topple what it called fundamentalists and their Talib brothers in Afghanistan and stated that unless their homeland (Afghanistan) was freed from the shackles of the fundamentalists, they won't have any Eid or new year.

In a statement on the occasion of Women's International Day, RAWA stated this year we celebrate the March 8 in such a circumstances that our people and particularly our downtrodden womenfolk are in the chains of the traitors, fundamentalists and their stooges, and the last remnants of civilisation and culture in our country are shamelessly being destroyed and added in past years the traitor Khalqis and Parchmis under the mask of socialism and working people stabbed the people and made their life miserable. Now different types of malicious fundamentalists under the name of religion, have been committing far more heinous crimes against our masses.

The Association while bitterly criticising the role of Jehadi parties of Afghanistan said these days the fundamentalists are shouting for peace but neither the government nor opposition has the least intention to stop their fraternal Jehadi fighting. They alleged that Taliban forces are more anti-women, anti-culture and anti-science than their other fundamentalist brothers who not only closed the doors of educational institutions but also confined the women behind the home walls and proclaimed that women are men's slaves.

Expressing resentments over the foreign interference in Afghanistan, they stated that government of Pakistan on the one hand claims that it does not favour any warring factions in Afghanistan but on the other hand she gave Gulbaddin Hekmatyar and Dostam VIP treatment and added that these two and other Afghan leaders including Rabbani, Sayyaf, Khaligi and other are dirty enemies of the Afghan nation.

Pakistan Observer
March, 9, 1996

DSF criticises Islamabad police

Bureau Report

PESHAWAR: Democratic Students Federation (DSF) has condemned the stoning of an Afghan women procession in Islamabad by some fundamentalist elements.

In a joint statement on Monday, DSF leaders, Ijaz Mohmand, Zahid Mohmand and Abid Hussain, criticised the Islamabad police for their indifferent attitude and baton charging of the Revolutionary Afghan Women Association (RAWA) procession.

It was high time, they said, that the people and government should block the path of so-called democratic fundamentalists or else Pakistan could face an Algiers and Afghanistan-like situation and would be left isolated in the comity of nations.

THE NEWS
May 18, 1993

The Frontier Post
April 17, 1996

RAWA criticises Pakistan's policy on Afghanistan

F.P. Report

PESHAWAR — Revolutionary Association of Women of Afghanistan (RAWA) has said that West has so far never seriously extended support to the democratic forces in Afghanistan.

Addressing to Peshawar District Bar Association a leader of the RAWA, Saima Karim said that if the West failed to check fundamentalism in Afghanistan, Iran would soon further increase it in the war-strife Afghanistan. She said the present Afghan leaders including Gulbuddin Hekmatyar, Prof Burhanuddin Rabbani, Commander Ahmad Shah Masood, Ustad Sayyaf and Rashid Dostam were responsible for the destruction and killing in Afghanistan. The RAWA leader criticised all those countries who had been supporting these leaders.

Saima was particularly all critical of Pakistan's policy and said that since its birth fundamentalists' were always discouraged but on the other hand Pakistan policy- makers had been trying to impose fundamentalists' rule in Afghanistan. She said that RAWA was not affiliated with any particular group and its only aim was to establish democratic system in Afghanistan. She said that RAWA preferred secularism with other system as it guaranteed equal rights to every citizen, irrespective of religion, race and language. India was heading towards disaster because it had abandoned its secular policies, she added.

Criticising the dual policy of the West, the RAWA leader said that it was strange that on the one hand it was supporting fundamentalists in Afghanistan and on the other opposing fundamentalism.

She narrated the sorry state of women in Afghanistan and said that at the hands of warlords women rights were abused. Women were not allowed to go to offices and a ban had been imposed on the women schools and colleges by the factional leaders in Afghanistan, she added.

The function was marred with disturbance when a lawyer belonging to Jamaat-e-Islami objected the district bar officer-bearers for inviting the RAWA leaders for delivering speech to the bar members.

Fida Gul (advocate) during the function was repeatedly asking that the bar office-bearers to clarify whether the district bar had invited RAWA leaders or they had come on their own. He was also asking that he should be given a chance to pose a question.

THE MUSLIM
April 17, 1996

Concern over Afghan infighting

BUREAU REPORT

PESHAWAR, April 16: Expressing concern over the lingering situation of the war-torn Afghanistan, the Revolutionary Association of Women of Afghanistan (RAWA) has held the religious groups responsible for the destruction and prolonging the civil war in Afghanistan.

Addressing the District Bar Association Peshawawr here Tuesday, the association chief, Saima Karim Strongly condemned the interference of the foreign powers in the internal affairs. She said that millions of innocent people had been killed or disabled due to the decade long war among power-hungry groups.

The coverage of RAWA's activities in the Pakistani press

To "leaders"

By Salim Bokhari

ISLAMABAD: A large number of women belonging to Revolutionary Association of the Women of Afghanistan (RAWA) Thursday staged a protest demonstration in Sector G-9.

They chanted slogans against the ruling alliance in Kabul alleging excessive cruelty and crimes and treason committed against people of Afghanistan by it.

They also protested destruction which the coalition had inflicted upon the country and had made it vulnerable to the danger, disintegration and plunged it into deep ditch of poverty and illeteracy.

At one stage a difficult situation had arisen when the heavy contingent of local police asked the processionists to disperse at a certain point. Afghan women not only refused to accept the request but continued their march to the fixed point despite police attempt to use a mild force.

RAWA members who were also carrying placards and banners chanted slogans like "down with fundamentalists in Kabul" at the full throttle of their voice.

A hand-bill distributed by the leaders of RAWA said two years had passed since the collapse of the puppet regime of Dr Najibullah, the last remnants of Russian's aggression and their Khalqi-Parchami supporters.

"Our afflicted and oppressed people who fought during 14 years rule of these homeland-enemies and suffered all sorts of torture, pain, imprisonment and shed streams of blood for the sake of independence and freedom; impatiently expected the establishment of peace and tranquility. But, unfortunately, as we and other freedom-loving and democratic-minded forces had predicted, after the domination of ferocious and criminal fundamentalists on April 28, 1992, even grimmer and darker cloud cast on the sky of our motherland, and Kabul and some other cities had drowned in rivers of blood", the document said.

Continued pounding of rockets, looting, kidnapping, murder, assault on girls and mothers, and molestation of adolescent boys were the gifts of the arrival of these modern time's Changiz-natured. On top of this, these traitors were out to break up the integrity of our motherland and the nation, and had confronted the country to the great danger of disintegration, and to reach to this very cheap objective were attempting to exacerbate regional, religious, national, linguistic and ethnic differences.



(RAWA) staging a rally in Peshawar on Saturday.

It added now even the supporters of these forces admit their lackeys and devotees' vandalism and barbarities and were trying to bring about a "compromise" among their supporters by talking, occasionally and casually, about their misdeeds. But now Afghan people were well aware that no pact, agreement and swearing could bridle the greed and voracity of these stooges.

"In view of the Revolutionary Association of the Women of Afghanistan, the involvement of UN and the sending of its effective peace-making forces is not the only and the best course for the Afghanistan's situation improvement and recovery given the prevailing situation, the affirmation by the majority of our nation to this UN move would be synonym to someone plunged in a dangerous whirlpool pins hopes to a straw to ged rid of the shackles of the terrorist fundamentalists", it went on.

THE NEWS

April 29, 1994

RAWA stages rally against Taliban in Peshawar

PESHAWAR – In connection with the Black Day on completion of Mujahideen's fourth year rule over Afghanistan, hundreds of Afghan women, girls and children staged a demonstration at Peshawar on Saturday morning.

The demonstration was organised by the Revolutionary Association of the Women of Afghanistan (RAWA) and was attended by a large number of widows, orphan girls and boys and disabled.

The processionists were holding banners, placards, portraits of the war affected children and slain leader Kishwar Kamal and other chanted slogans against Mujahideen and Taliban leaders. "*Taliban* are *Jahilan*. Mujahideen are *Qatilan*. Rabbani, Sayyaf, Gulbadin are agents of Pakistan and Iran. Iran, Pakistan and Saudi Arabia are responsible for destruction of Afghanistan and killing of Afghans. Foreign countries are responsible for empowering Mujahideen and Taliban over Afghanistan", were common slogans, chanted during the around two hours, first of its kind demonstration at Peshawar.

From Defence Colony till Peshawar Club at several points, the demonstration were addressed by a women sitting in a vehicle. She addressed the processionists in three languages Urdu, Pushto and Darri in which she had made an attempt to divert attentions of the world community towards gross violation of human rights at the hands of Mujahideen and Taliban in their controlled areas. the RAWA leader alleged that neighbour countries are provoking warring factions against each others and they are responsible for increasing uncertainty and insecurity in that war-revaged country. The RAWA leader also highlighted socio-economic problems of the Afghan women who as a result of war and fighting in their motherland scattered in all over the world. She reaffirmed that RAWA would continue its struggle for the protection of women rights as well as for establishment of a pure democratic set up in their motherland.

The processionists held responsible Iran for increasing bloodshed and destruction in Afghanistan and severely criticised its rulers for assisting Rabbani and other leaders who are involved in the ongoing fighting at that country.



Afghan women protesting against fundamentalist Afghan leaders in Peshawar on Saturday.

The Nation

April 28, 1996

The coverage of RAWA's activities in the Pakistani press

No peace in Afghanistan until outside interference is stopped

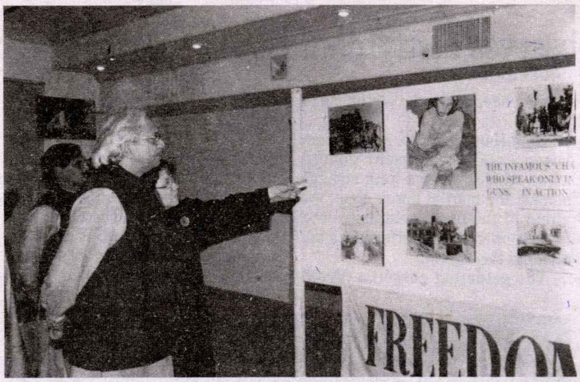
ISLAMABAD: Peace in Afghanistan can only be restored if Pakistan, Iran and Saudi Arabia give up their support and assistance to the war'monger 'fundamentalists'.

This was the understanding reached in a function organised at a local hotel on Friday at the seventh martyrdom anniversary of Meena—Afghan woman leader.

The anniversary was arranged by Revolutionary Association of the Women of Afghanistan (RAWA). An 11-point resolution was also adopted at the end of the function denouncing the Afghan warlords for their lust for power. The function organised to seek "An alternative for peace and democracy in Afghanistan," was addressed, among others, by Muhammad Hanif Ramay, speaker Punjab Assembly, Mushahid Hussain, Mehnaz Rafi, Ms. K. Palwasha and Nasima Behreen, a RAWA activist.

Afghan children presented poems depicting how Kabul was burning and how they have to save it at any cost?

Speaker Ramay, while deliberating on the issue, said though Russia had withdrawn its forces from the war-torn country, Afghanistan is yet to be liberated until a democratic government of Afghans' own choice is not installed.



Nasima Behreen of RAWA draws Hanif Ramay's attention towards the portrait depicting the pathetic situation in Afghanistan.

He proposed elections in the war-ravaged country under the supervision of the United Nations. "We fully share your grief and tragedy and are ready to support your demand of democracy," he told the RAWA activists. He also requested them to support Pakistan on the Kashmir cause.

The Punjab speaker asked the RAWA leaders to bring-forth the democratic loving organisations of their country so that Pakistani people, who have always supported the cause of Afghanistan, could help them in establishing democracy in their country.

"For us the names of RAWA, Gulbaddin Hekmatyar, General Dostum and Burhanuddin Rabbani are familiar and beyond them we know nothing."

The resolution adopted in the function says until the foreign powers will not stop aiding fundamentalist forces, peace in Afghanistan will remain an utopian concept.

The resolution also condemns the efforts of Iran and Saudi Arabia to 'mediate' and asks Pakistan to either choose friendship between the 'fundamentalists' or with the Afghan people.

The resolution urges the government of Pakistan to allow the refugees to enter into Pakistan so that their dignity, honour and lives could be secured. It also says though the incompetency of the UN cannot be denied in Somalia and Cambodia, yet the UN peace forces can arrange a Loya Jirga in order to establish an interim government and make preparation for the real elections in Afghanistan.

The resolution further says to have a real free Afghanistan, a government, based on democratic values, must be established so that it could act as a bridge between Pakistan and the Central Asian Republics.

THE NEWS
Feb. 5, 1994

RAWA calls for an end to bloodshed in Kabul

ISLAMABAD — "Look countrymen, my homeland is bleeding and my dearest Kabul is burning", was the song orchestrated to the tune of misery and sang by young voices from the ruined Afghanistan at a function to explore the possibilities of peace and democracy.

The revolutionary Association of the Women of Afghanistan (RAWA) on Friday commemorated the 7th anniversary of its founding leader, Sister Meena and called upon the government headed by Benazir Bhutto and the world conscience not to support the fundamentalists there. "This fire which has engulfed the Kabul today may hit Islamabad tomorrow", the speaker warned.

In an open letter to the Pakistani premier distributed at the function, the RAWA pleaded, "Enough is enough. The people of Afghanistan are thoroughly fed up with the fascist, anti-democracy and anti-women, fundamentalists". The letter adds: "Nothing substantial has changed during the last 15 years in connection with Pakistan's policy on Afghanistan. Nothing has been removed from the pile of stinking fundamentalists exported to Afghanistan".

"Had Pakistan not been behind Gulbaddin's party, he would have been brought to knees long ago and once for all", it says. "Our country is bleeding and burning at their hands and efforts are on to have a reconciliation among them and re-impose them on Afghanistan", says the letter and pleads: "Please do not play this cruel trick on our bereaved nation".

This bread of revolutionary women from the war-torn Afghanistan earned an enthusiastic supporter in the shape of Hamif Ramay, the Speaker, Punjab Assembly who suggested the United Nations' supervised elections in Afghanistan to check the on-going tribal cum fundamentalist fights. "The withdrawal of Soviet troops was good, but it was not the completion of the Afghan dream", he said.

Ramay said that Halakoo Khan destroyed Beghdad and Hekmatyar is repeating the tragedy in Kabul. He asked the United Nations not to play the role of mere grave diggers in Afghanistan. Rather it should be bold enough to help in saving the life and honour of the Afghans. Ramay said, "The democratic forces in Afghanistan have never made any assertive appearance thus the people of Pakistan know only eight or nine right-wing leaders". Invite your democrats, said Ramay, I will convince the government to extend moral and political support to them.

The leaders of RAWA Naseema Behreen and Palwasha Riffat narrated the pathetic situation prevailing in today's Kabul. "When the fundamentalists can't secure more than five percent votes in Pakistan, then why has our future been linked with them in Afghanistan since April 1992", they asked.

Only a democratic Afghanistan could serve as a bridge between Pakistan and the Central Asian republics, they opined. The Afghan women recalled that after the Soviet aggression, Pakistan opened its doors to the Afghans. "But the shocked, devastated and wounded residents of Kabul are being pushed back to Jalalabad at the mercy of the fundamentalists", they criticised while terming the situation like being out of the frying pan and into the fire.

Peace in Afghanistan, they maintained, can only be restored if Pakistan, Iran and Saudi Arabia gave up their support and assistance to the war-mongering fundamentalists. Quoting the whimsical utterances of Gen. Ziaul Haq and Akhtar Abdur Rahman that, "Kabul must burn", the Afghan speakers called upon the present government which they regarded as enlightened and democratic, that it should not continue the age-old policy.

The RAWA also adopted an eleven-point resolution.

The Frontier Post
Feb. 5, 1994

The coverage of RAWA's activities in the Pakistani press

Speakers criticise foreign interference in Afghanistan

RAWA observes martyrdom anniversary of Sister Meena

ISLAMABAD: The Foreign Office of Pakistan Saturday prevented Begum Nusrat Bhutto from attending the commemoration ceremony of Afghan woman leader, Meena, a gesture severely criticised by Abid Hasan Minto, chairman Awami Jamhoori Party.

Begum Bhutto had committed to attend the function organised by the Revolutionary Association of the Women of Afghanistan (RAWA) but cancelled it at the last moment on the advice of the Foreign Office.

"The job of the Foreign Office is to strengthen bonds between the two countries. It cannot stand between the joint struggle of the people of Pakistan and Afghanistan against fundamentalism, ignorance, tyranny and aggression on the behest of outside forces," said Abid Hassan Minto.

The function which marked the 8th martyrdom anniversary of Sister Meena condemn the alleged atrocities on Afghan people by the warring factions under the cover of Islam.

Focussing on the theme of 'Solution to the Afghan disaster: Fundamentalism or Democracy', an impressive gathering of speakers voted in favour of democracy and denounced the power game between various Afghan groups on the behest of foreign masters as bound to doom the destiny of the country.

They said the only path to development and prosperity was democracy which could only be achieved by eliminating the extremist forces playing havoc with the country's future.

Abid Hassan Minto, a prominent lawyer, said the present government, which waged a long struggle against the martial law regime, was afraid of the fundamentalist forces bent upon creating differences and dividing the nation.

The gathering passed a recommendation which condemned the alleged interference of Pakistan, Iran and Saudi Arabia in the affairs of Afghanistan in the form of military, financial or political support to the fundamentalist parties.

The speakers also appealed to Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto to probe into the unjust leniency of court and the murderers of Meena be given capital punishment.

They termed the United Nations' efforts for the "creation of understanding" among the alleged power hungry "emirs" and reaching for a "permanent peace" as futile and said that if the UN sincerely desired peace in Afghanistan, it must endeavour to stop the involvement of foreign countries, disarm and guarantee the holding of free and fair elections in the country.

The recommendations also declared the reactionary elements and alleged foreign mercenaries in Malakand an eye opener for the democratic forces of Pakistan. If the government did not step up to control the dark waves of fundamentalism, there would be another Afghanistan in the region.

Earlier, Nasima Bareen of the RAWA blamed Zia ul Haq for the alleged atrocities and aggression against the Afghan people because he had raised and supported Gulbadin Hikmatyar, who according to her, was notorious for his crimes.

She said because of the atrocities of Afghan warlords the innocent people of Afghanistan were facing their darkest days.

Rabia Latif, who recently visited her motherland, narrated horrifying details of what the extremists were doing with the women of Afghanistan. She said even young girls were not safe at the hands of the extremists, who raided and gang raped women.

JKLF representative Abdul Majeed said every successive government in Pakistan had been a hostage in the hands of fundamentalists, who were bent upon pushing the country into an abyss of darkness and ignorance. He said Afghanistan had become a base camp of terrorism for the imperialist forces working to destroy the peace in the region.

Chief of Council of the Committee for the National Movement of Afghanistan also spoke on the occasion.



Afghan children singing a song at RAWA function on Saturday—Staff Photo

THE NEWS
Feb. 5, 1995

UN, OIC asked to review efforts for Afghan peace

ISLAMABAD, Feb 4: The Revolutionary Association of the Women of Afghanistan (RAWA) commemorated the 8th martyrdom anniversary of Sister Meena Saturday.

The RAWA said they (Afghans) didn't want aid a piece of cloth, food or shelter but only peace that brings all blessings for free human beings. They asked the international organisations such as the United Nations (UN) and the Organisation of Islamic Conference to re-orientate their efforts for peace in Afghanistan. The subject of the function was 'the solution of Afghan Disaster: fundamentalism or democracy'.

The RAWA urged the UN and OIC to stop the involvement of foreign countries and guarantee the holding of free and fair elections in the country. They said the holding of free and fair elections under the shadow of weapons would be impossible.

If the UN desires to bring peace in Afghanistan, it must stop the involvement of all foreign elements. She alleged these people (Afghan rulers) are not faithful to their countrymen and that's why they have no respect for their agreements.

Pointing out the government's efforts to control Deeni Madrissahs, she said these Madrissahs have deep link with the Afghan situation.

Highlighting the similarities between Pakistan and Afghanistan, Abid Hassan Minto, Chairman of the Awami Jamhori Party said "people of both countries have same problems. Afghans have Gulbaddin Hekmatyar, while we have Sufi Muhammad and other like him. He said all the people be given full opportunity to live their lives according to their own belief.

The gathering strongly pleaded for democracy.

THE MUSLIM
Feb. 5, 1995

The coverage of RAWA's activities in the Pakistani press

RAWA team briefs AI about HR situation in Afghanistan

From Our Correspondent

PESHAWAR – A two-member delegation of the Rovolutionary Association of Afghanistan met with the Amnesty International at Peshawar and apprised AI member of the human rights situation as well as political unrest in the war-ravaged Afghanistan.

The RAWA delegation comprising Jamila Habib and Saeeda Salim during their meeting with the three-member delegation of Amnesty International currently visiting the region, said that they want to initiate political activities in Afghanistan but hardliners are ruling the parts and portions of that country creating problems for them. They said that these hardliners are reluctant to allow women of enjoying their due political and human rights and are forcing the women, to confine themselves to *Char Dewari* of the houses.

The RAWA delegation, while levelling serious allegations against Afghan Prime Minister Gulbadin Hekmatyar, drawn the attention of Amnesty delegation to his latest directives included imposition of ban on movies and music on electronic media. They said that through these directives, Gulbadin had once again exposed himself before the world. However, the RAWA delegation didn't speak any thing about the Afghan President Prof. Rabbani.

The RAWA delegates reaffirmed their stand in favour of peace efforts of United Nations but said that UNF was misusing its time and resources with focusing its efforts on a few war and power mongers. Instead of trying to change the faces, the United Nations need to follow realisatic approach for the solution of problem. It suggested the new envoy for Afghanistan Dr. Robert Holl to establish contacts with all Afghans instead of wasting time on a few jehad leaders who imposed themselves on Afghans.

The RAWA delegation briefed the Amnesty International about situation of the human rights in general and women rights in Afghanistan in particular.

For the restoration of peace and end to bloodshed in Afghanistan, the RAWA leaders suggested that United Nations should be asked for an end to foreign interference in the affairs of that country. They also asked for trial of the *Jehad* leaders who were fighting against each other since April 1992 last. In the light of these proposals, the long-awaited issue could be resolved through peaceful and political ways, they added.

The Nation

July 21, 1996

RAWA condemns attack on Pak embassy

DESK REPORT

ISLAMABAD—The Revolutionary Association of the Women of Afghanistan has condemned the "cowardly state terrorism" perpetrated on the Pakistan embassy staff in Kabul "by President Rabbani's men".

A RAWA statement issued to this newspaper on Saturday, said "by attacking the embassy, Rabbani cannot cover his defeat and blood-soaked hands".

It may be recalled that on September 6 last, Pakistan embassy in Kabul was attacked by hundreds of hooligans killing a worker and injuring 25 others including the ambassador.

"By resorting to such an action, Rabbani and his gang want to divert the attention of the miserable people of Afghanistan from their own problems caused by the treacherous fundamentalists in the war-torn country", the RAWA statement added.

Expressing its disgust over the attack, the RAWA asked the Pakistan government to review its policy on Afghanistan and announce withdrawal of its support to the Rabbani régime.

Pakistan Observer

Sep. 10, 1995

Afghan Jehad leaders termed power hungry

PESHAWAR – The Revolutionary Association of Women of Afghanistan (RAWA) has discribed all the "Jehadic" leaders as fascist, power-hungry and against women rights and alleged "These fundamentalists humiliated the Afghan women, killed the innocent people and turned the prosperous Afghanistan into the city of ghosts in their tussle for power".

Addressing the lawyers of Peshawar District Bar Association, spokeswoman of RAWA, Saima Karim in her six pages long speech narrated heart-rendering stories the people of Afghanistan faced during the last four years and also came down hard on neighbouring countries for trying to impose fundamentalist government in Afghanistan.

The RAWA spokesman pointed out contradictions in the role of leading Afghan leaders Gulbadin Hikmatyar, Burhanuddin Rabbani, Rasool Sayyaf and held responsible them for the destruction of their homeland and killing of innocent of Afghans in their bid to grab power by hook or by crook.

On the one hand, these leaders incited the people to stand up against communism and socialism but on the other hand they missed no opportunity to join hands with the infamous communists leaders whenever their power come undercloud. "The alliance of Ustad Rabbani with communist leader Rashid Dostum and Hikmatyar with Shah Nawaz Tanai and then of Hikmatyar with Rashid Dostum are ample proofs of their hypocratic, un-Islamic and undemocratic role", she pointed.

"It is not a secret phenomenon that Gulbadin Hikmatyar was a servant of Pakistan and is always breed by her as well", she said, adding that the other neighbouring countries Iran, Saudi Arabia, India and Russia were also providing all kind of meterial assistance to their blue-eyed Afghan leaders.

The Nation

April. 17, 1996

The coverage of RAWA's activities in the Pakistani press

RAWA rejects Rabbani, Hekmatyar pact

By SYED BUKHAR SHAH

PESHAWAR - Revolutionary Association of Women of Afghanistan (RAWA) has said that peace can only come to Afghanistan when all the fundamentalist elements are eliminated. It said that Hekmatyar's agreement with president Rabbani is not a guarantee for peace.

This was stated by Saima Karim of RAWA while addressing a press conference at Peshawar Press Club on Saturday. She said both president Rabbani and Gulbaddin Hekmatyar were signing peace agreements only on the directives of their foreign masters.

These Afghan leaders, she said had repeatedly signed peace agreements in Peshawar, Islamabad, Jalalabad and even in Mecca Sharif but the whole world had witnessed the result of that agreements and role of Jehadi forces. Her association, she said has repeatedly stated that these fundamentalists could not forge unity among their ranks as almost all of them wanted to rule Afghanistan.

The so-called Afghan leaders, Saima Karim said had always termed each others as Kafirs and agents of foreign countries but now they were trying to befool the Afghan nation by talking regarding restoration of peace in Kabul. The people of Afghanistan, she said were extremely disappointed with the role of Jehadi forces. The on-going peace agreement with Rabbani and Hekmatyar would not remain for long, Saima Karim added. She said a lot of efforts had been made by the foreign countries including United Nations, Pakistan and other countries in OIC but they did nothing in this connection. Until and unless these Afghan groups are disarmed, peace in Afghanistan could not be restored, she added.

These Afghan leaders, she said could not deceive the Afghan nation on the holy name of Quran, Shariat and Islamic system and now they would come out against them in near future. These Afghan leaders, she said would be hold accountable for the genocide and massacre of Afghan people.

Saima Karim asked the peace and democratic loving parties in Pakistan to openly support progressive and peace-loving people of Afghanistan and take practical steps against fundamentalist forces. She cited the example of Jamaat-e-Islami chief Qazi Hussain Ahmad was openly supporting fundamentalist forces in Kabul. She asked her party supporters in Pakistan to join hands with them against fundamentalist forces for the restoration of peace in that war torn country.

The RAWA representatives claimed that the Afghan leaders had no support of the Afghan nation and that was why they were trying to establish their government in Kabul with the use of Klashnikovs and other weapons. But the same people, she said would come out against them when they would not have "power and dollars". The innocent and helpless people of Afghanistan, she said would take revenge from these Afghan leaders. She said the US had supplied a huge quantity of arms and ammunition to Afghan jehadi forces during the last 15 years and they would fight for years among themselves with that weapons and dollars.

She said the people of Afghanistan should be asked to elect their own leaders after disarming these Afghan jehadi forces. She said Afghans had great respect for the former monarch Zahir Shah and he was the only personality in that country who could unite all Afghans. She said former president Najeebullah was not a fundamentalist but his role was not less than these fundamentalists. He (Najeeb) had also killed thousands of people and sent the people behind bar during his own government, she added.

To a question, Saima Karim said they would accept the result of free elections if they were held in Afghanistan. She clarified that her association had never opposed any progressive force. She said her association has no support of foreign countries nor her association ever tried for getting outside support. She reiterated to render sacrifices for the achievement of their genuine demands and restoration of womens rights.

The Frontier Post
June 23, 1996

Jehad groups blamed for endless Afghan war

ZULFIKAR ALI

PESHAWAR, June 21: Revolutionary Association of the Women of Afghanistan (RAWA) blamed the Afghan Jehadi groups for a endless war and viewed that the only solutionn of the conflict was elimination of the fundamentalist parties from the war-torn country.

Addressing a press conference here Saturday, the president of RAWA, Saima Karimi appealed to the foreign countries including Pakistan, Iran and Saudi Arabia to stop meddling in the Afghan affairs and let the Afghans resolve their problems. She claimed that every Jehai group had affiliation with foreign countries and that the foreign hands were trying to maintain their monopoly through their favourite Afghan parties.

Criticising the current Rabbani-Hekmatyar accord Saima Karimi termed both leaders vultures and believed that all the group leaders had common interests in continuing war and running the country on gunpoint. She predicted that the Rabbani-Hekmatyar accord will not be proved lasting solution to the issue and after a very short span of time they would launch war to expell each other from Kabul. The RAWA chief said the some Pakistan-based fundamentalist group like Jamaat-e-Islami were also supporting what she called fugitives in Kabul. However, she proposed that the democratic forces in Pakistan and Afghanistan should join hands to strengthen the roots of democratic system in both the neighbouring countries.

Supporting the US decision pertaining to ban on arms delivery to the Afghan groups, Saima Karimi viewed that it should have taken this step very early.

She deplored the gross roots human rights violations in Afghanistan and alleged that the Afghans were not safe in their own country and every warring faction had set up its own torture cells and jails. She lamented that the women and children were being victimised and the activits of the warlords were talking in the language of gun.

Saima said that the democratic forces in Afghanistan could not run their activities in the country and due to fear some went underground while some others had left the country. She said that the fundamentalists were were running their dirty business in the name of Islam, but no one was taking note of their excesses.

THE MUSLIM
June, 23, 1996

The coverage of RAWA's activities in the Pakistani press

RAWA demonstration against fundamentalism

From Our Correspondent

PESHAWAR – The Revolutionary Association of Women of Afghanistan, observing April 28 as a black day, here took out a procession from University town.

Holding placards, banners and pictures, showing destruction of the Afghan nationals and country, the activists of RAWA were also accompanied by Pakistani women.

With the help of an arranged mobile stage, the processionists were being addressed by various speakers whereas little girls presented various poems, demanding peace and democracy in their country.

The Peshawar police interestingly was unaware of all this and came to know at the eleventh hour when the women activists were about to come to road. Till the last moment, there had been no emergency police and the traffic mobile had to perform this duty.

Meanwhile, the administration also arrested two armed persons said to be the guards of Afghan ladies, however, despite frequent requests of the Afghan ladies, their release could not be confirmed. In the presence of police and administration the Afghan women were heared saying "You have killed so many Afghans in this way". The two armedmen were said to be Ali Ghulam and Mian Baig from Islamabad.

To let their steam off against the fundamentalists the Afghan female speakers said that masses of the wartorn Afghanistan with the end of puppet regime three years back were waiting for a free Afghanistan to get their grievances redressed but on April 28, 1992 the power was transferred to fundamentalists who polluted the atmosphere further.

Terming April 28 as the black day, the speakers alleged, these fundamentalists massacred thousands of people, molested girls and boys, subjected women to different sorts of torture and a famine like situation was created.

They said that regional masters, after the exposure of these fundamentalists, to safeguard there interests, brought a new force 'Taliban'. However they said that no matter if Taliban were being presented as the neutral and poised people, the Afghan nation would never be deceived. "If Taliban do not want to grab power, then why they are fighting for? questioned RAWA.

They said that Afghan's like other nations of the region believed in freedom and made it clear that Taliban or any other force would not be allowed to exploit the name of Islam for political purposes. Taliban, they said, were no less than Hikmatyar, Rabbani, Sayaf or Khalil and demanded that Afghan problem be solved with the collaboration of United Nations and also countries like Iran, Pakistan and Saudi Arabia were asked to keep off hands from Afghanistan.



The RAWA rally in Peshawar

The Nation
April 29, 1995

RAWA condemns human rights violations in Afghanistan

By Huma Masroor

ISLAMABAD: Revolutionary Association of the Women's of Afghanistan, (RAWA) Tuesday staged a demonstration to condemn human rights violations in their country ridden by factional fighting following pullout of forces of the former Soviet Union.

The demonstration was organised by RAWA to mark the International Human Rights Day being observed throughout the world.

The demonstration was staged at Peshawar Mor and later marched towards the Karachi Company. No formal speeches were delivered. However, some of RAWA leaders recalled events under Taliban regime vowing to continue their struggle against all forms of fundamentalism, particularly the Taliban atrocities against people of their country. The participants of the rally were carrying placards inscribed with slogans against Taliban, Rabbani, Mujadadi and Hikmetyar.

A two-page resolution was also distributed among the participants and the same was released to the press. Hundreds of Afghan women and children attended the rally and kept chanting anti-Taliban slogans.



ISLAMABAD: Activist from the Revolutionary Association of the Women of Afghanistan (RAWA) chant slogans against Taliban leaders during a protest rally on Tuesday to mark the World Human Rights.- AFP

Talking to The News, Nasima, the Quetta-based leader of RAWA, said observance of December 10 as Human Rights Day would be useless unless the world community and organisation championing cause of human rights did not condemn the horrible crimes of fundamentalists in Afghanistan.

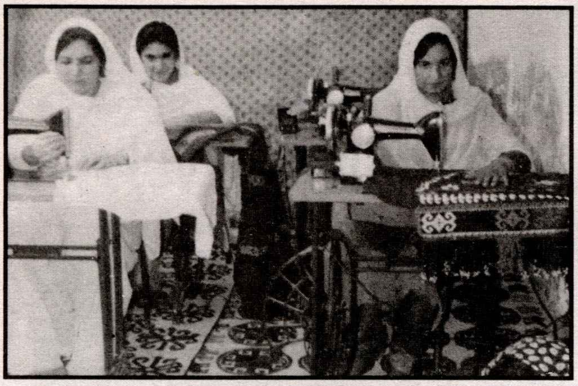
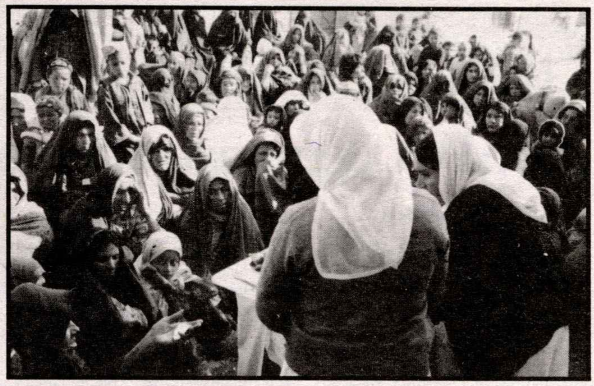
Claiming that women's rights are, in fact, human rights, Nasima said crimes being committed by fundamental groups in Afghanistan have no parallel in history. She was critical of the actions of Taliban forces in Afghanistan against the people, particularly women. Under Taliban, Kabul has been transformed into a valley of death and destruction.

She said the main purpose to stage the demonstration was to communicate the voice of Afghan people to the world community on the occasion of Human Rights Day. She said it was about the time when the so-called 'Jehadi' and Taliban forces should hand over the power to the real people of Afghanistan. Otherwise, she said, a joint struggle would be launched to oppose the savage assaults of Taliban against Afghan women.

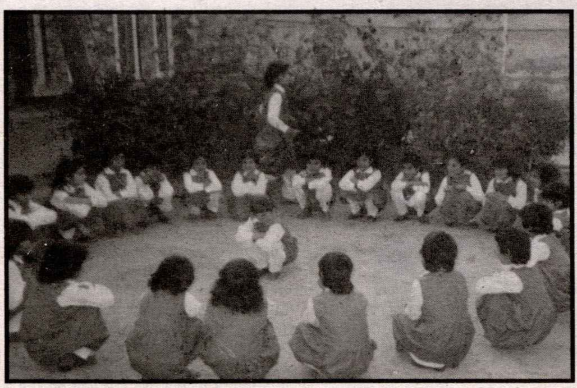
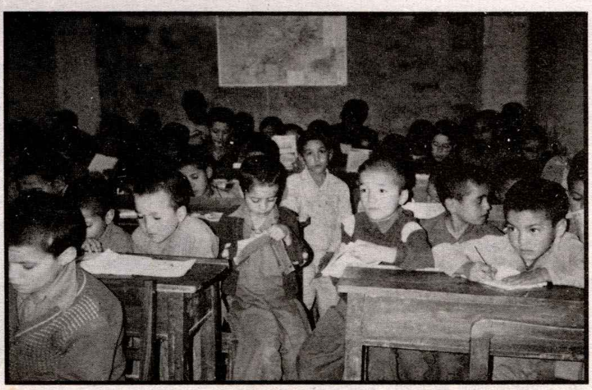
The resolution said that Talibans' approach towards women, democracy, science, culture and political freedom was not at all different from the 'Jehadi' groups. This approach is an attempt to impose fascism on the people of Afghanistan, it said.

It further said that Taliban policy of not disarming different Mujahideen factions was aimed at escalating the conflict. It accused Taliban of using the name of Islam to suppress the masses and deprive them of their fundamental rights.

INTERNATIONAL THE NEWS
Dec. 11, 1996

Help us run Malalai Hospital, Watan Schools and handicraft workshops to show the fundamentalists that the Afghan women are not alone in their struggle for freedom and democracy. We solicit your contribution to keep the flame of hope alight.

Transfer your donations to our bank account for US$:

Mrs. Sohaila Farhad
F.C.A/C No 55060-2
Habib Bank Ltd.,
CDA Civic Center Branch,
Islamabad
Pakistan

Or send a check/money order made payable to Mrs. Sohaila Farhad (Not RAWA) to the following address:

RAWA
P.O.Box 374
Quetta
Pakistan

.... AND NOW IT IS THE TURN OF THE AFGHANS' BONES

The fundamentalists have turned our land into such a hell that our helpless masses have no other option but to sell the bones of the victims of the treacherous infighting in order to make their both ends meet.



Kabul: This Photo shows a man weighing bones to sell for export to Pakistan. A British newspaper has reported that human bones, broke up to prevent identification, are mixed with animal poultry. The skeleton of an average Afghan man can fetch up to 7,000 Afghanis (50 US cents), providing the children who steal the bones with an income comparable to that of an Afghan civil servant. (AFP)

Import of bones from Afghanistan banned

Islamabad (AFP) - Pakistan has banned the importation of bones from neighbouring Afghanistan after reports that human remains were being sold as animal bones, officials said Thursday.

An investigation has also been ordered into allegations suggesting the human bones were being brought into Pakistan in the guise of animal remains, they said.

The ban on imports of all kinds of bones from Afghanistan will remain in force until the completion of the probe.

The Sunday *New York Times* reported this week that desperate Afghan children retrieved human bones from graveyards for export to Pakistan, where they were used for making cooking oil, soap and chicken feed.

It quoted merchants in Kabul as saying the human remains were mixed with bones from dogs, cows, horses and donkeys and sold to middlemen who trucked them to Pakistan.

The Frontier Post
January 17,1997



A decomposed body of a person with his baby on top of it found from a mass-grave out of tens of such graves in Kabul. *(RAWA photo)*

The world has forgotten Afghanistan. For more than a generation, Afghans have lived through a human rights nightmare as their country has been torn apart by rival armed factions. Tens of thousands of defenseless women, men and children have been killed. A fifth of the population has fled the country in terror. Those who remain live in constant fear that they may be the next victim of assassination, torture, rape or abduction.

From "Afghanistan: International responsibility for human rights disaster" (AI)

SECOND PRINT 2000